

Scholar buries listed firm – in 600 words.

Page 8



High-flier – an Air France in-flight interpreter talks shop.

Page 9



Kites – when and where to buy and fly them.

Page 13



BEIJING TODAY

FRIDAY MARCH 29, 2002

NO. 46

CN11-0120

HTTP://BJTODAY.YNET.COM

City Announces Olympic Action Plan

By Xiao Rong

Beijing pledged to eliminate sandstorms by 2005 as part of its Olympic Action Plan released yesterday afternoon.

Mayor Liu Qi, president of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG), introduced the committee's guidelines on preparatory work for the Games.

The mayor said top priority was

attracting more professional talent to the committee. Next was preparation of bidding projects for sports venues in the latter half of the year. Finally, land preparation along the Olympic Green is to be completed by the end of the year.

A total 1.44 billion yuan will be spent constructing 19 venues.

Thirty-seven sports venues, 32 in Beijing and five in other cities, will be

used. Renovation of the venues and construction of the Olympic Green will cost another 1.94 billion yuan, said Liu Jingmin, city vice mayor, at the conference.

Further efforts will be made to build up a sound ecological foundation for the city by developing more forest area and promoting organic agriculture. By 2007, forest coverage of the city will amount to 50 percent of its total area.

Mayor Liu outlined five themes: the

general strategic concept, the construction of sports venues and related facilities, the development of the ecological environment and municipal infrastructure, social environment construction and support measures ensuring the success of the Games.

Beijing Municipal Government and the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games officially announced the plan.

New Home, New Hope

Women ready for reeducation in pretty pink building



Photo by Gloom

By Alan Shaw

The metallic rasp of rev-elle interrupted the interns' dreams. As usual, everyone in the room rose quickly. It was 6 am, almost first light, with the promise of a clear spring day.

After washing faces and brushing teeth, hundreds of women wearing red uniforms were called to line up in the corridors of Xin'an Reeducation Unit on March 15.

"Today we plan to move to a new reeducation unit with a beautiful environment," said Su Xiangrong, head of team no.7 in a calm voice.

"It will help you to reeducate yourself, and we have several following requests before dismissal..." They listened in silence.

"I did not feel very excited at the news as I had not expected too much from the new home at first," recalls Ms. Huang, a team no.7 intern reeducated for drug addiction.

Pack up for leaving

Each of the 18 women in the room was allocated a big red plastic bag to fill with everyday products, and a white rope to tie up their quilts.

Ms. Gao, Huang's roommate, took up her brush, cup, towel and plain clothes and stuffed them in the bag. Others helped each other tighten the quilts.

It was nearly 7:30 when all the things were ready, and then breakfast. They finished off their salty duck eggs and steamed bread in about half an hour.

Huang and her dozens of

mates stepped out of the 21-year-old building. She says she sneaked a final peek at the room where she had been detained for two months.

Lining up in five files, they placed all the bags into trucks. Then 50 interns and five police officials boarded a Dandong Huanghai bus.

Going home feeling

The drivers started their engines. It was a clear day with a light breeze. It was Gao's first bus trip in three months. The last time she and others had taken a bus to the Heaven River Reeducation Unit was to watch a performance by other interns on December 26, 2001 to celebrate the coming new year.

"I felt like I was going home, the trees green, and my heart swelled a little," says Gao, with a gentle smile as she recalls the bus exiting through the door of Beijing Xin'an Reeducation Unit.

Soon the bus came to the gate of Beijing Women's Reeducation Unit, which leads to a gray yard. Carved wrought-iron girders define the new gate.

Warm rooms, tasty dishes

The accommodation buildings there were painted pink to represent warmth and tolerance, said an official of the Beijing Bureau of Reeducation-through-labor Administration. All the roofs are red and blue.

"The pink building is so pretty," Huang says she said to herself when she first saw the apartments. "I felt so warm the minute I entered the room. I had not imagined the government would establish such a fancy en-

vironment for us. You know, it is really like the residential apartments around here."

"My original image of the reeducation unit was one of high walls," says Gao.

Bags in hand, the interns ascended through the ivy-laced stairwell. A Toshiba projection TV came into sight as they stepped onto the second floor where Gao and Huang's rooms are located.

"It was really like a big hall for activities," says Huang of her first glimpse of her apartments. "I felt at ease in such an apartment with a wide view." "Fewer people share bigger rooms," says Huang. "All the windows are equipped with movable doors, and the pure white window curtain with flowers is very clean."

The washrooms include a special flushing machine designed for women, a Bureau official said.

Newcomers were surprised to find a library on each floor. "I like to read love stories," says Ms. Zhang, of team no.3. She is holding up a book by Xi Juan, a popular Taiwan romance writer, on the second floor.

After tidying the room, they went to lunch in the canteen. "Chicken pieces, celery, cauliflower, baozi dumplings, fruits and many other dishes are served," says Huang later.

"I would like to behave as well as I can to go home early," says Gao, who began her reeducation period last August. "If I can shorten my term, maybe I can leave this May," she says. Her eyes narrow as she breaks into a grin.

Labor through Re-education

By Alan Shaw

Beijing female detainees moved from the 21-year-old Beijing Xin'an Reeducation Unit to the newly built Beijing Women's Reeducation Unit in the morning of March 15 in a secure and orderly way. The four-hour-long home moving is the first wholesome one for reeducation units in the city since 1949.

Reeducation-through-labor in China is a method of education for those who have committed light violations of law.

Detainees must be no younger than 16. They include those who solicit for prostitutes, who do not mend their ways after re-education, inveterate gamblers, vendors of illegal publications, drug addicts and traffickers and others.

Detainees are legally entitled to personality dignity, away from scorn, corporal punishment and maltreatment. They are entitled to cultural education and voting rights. They also have legal rights to labor safety, rest and family meetings.

Unit deputy superintendent Zhu Xiaoli said the detainees could weave sweaters, make toys, and learn tailoring and computers from textbooks provided by the Ministry of Justice.

Detainees usually do little physical labor these days, and they can meet with families at regular intervals, and those who exhibit good behavior are entitled to live with their family member at the unit, Zhu added. Reeducation-through-labor term lasts one to three years.

The Reeducation-through-labor Unit guards are responsible for managing and educating the detainees in the principle of "Education, Reclaim and Retrieval".

Reeducation-through-labor was approved and implemented by the Standing Committee of China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC) on August 3, 1957. The Trial Regulation on Reeducation-through-labor approved by the State Council on January 21, 1982 offers more detailed explanations about it.



Photo by Jackey

Visiting Peres Picks Politics over Poetry

Israeli foreign minister comes to capital on flying visit

By Zhang Xiaoxia

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres discussed poets, watchmakers and peacemaking in an interview with *Beijing Today* at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in the spring breeze on Monday.

The 79-year-old foreign minister shared his continuing affection for China and his willingness to work for peace. But Peres' visit was brief. "I have to shorten it," he said, "because I have to be back home."

"I came to conclude the 10 years and to cooperate another 10 years," said Peres of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Israel diplomatic relationship.

Noting China's high rate of economic growth, World Trade Organization entry and successful Olympic bid, Peres said he saw big changes on the streets of the capital city.

"Coming to Beijing, my first impression now is no bicycles, only cars. When I came last time, the streets were full of bicycles. I see people are better dressed, eat better food."

He concluded from this that the Chinese people believe in the country's progress, but that this progress did not come without pain. He compared China to a caterpillar.

"When the worm begins to feel pains in the shoulder, which is not easy, it's because the wings are beginning to grow," he said.

"So I can see the pains of China is in the shoulders because China is transforming herself from a land worm to be an economic butterfly."

Upon being told that the distance between the Israeli and Palestinian embassies in Beijing was less than two kilometers, Peres laughed and said the distance between the two sides was even shorter back home.

"Our ambassador can meet the Palestinians, the Syrians, everybody. He is free," he said.

He suggested they all meet in a local teahouse with "good Chinese black tea".

All sides yearn for peace, said Peres. "On the one hand, everybody is all angry and on the other hand, everybody wants more peace," he said, "You know, people are complicated."

He hoped for a cease-fire. "Good neighbors are better than good guns," he said, quoting an Israeli saying, "Instead of fighting the darkness, light a candle."

Acknowledging that seemingly intractable processes continue to damage life in the Middle East, Peres saw hope in an accelerating process: globalization.

"Today take the young people all over the world – they have not only a local patriotism, but also a world patriotism. All of them would like to have the same jeans, the same T-shirt, the same music."

"The same terrible food," he added, laughing. "You know – Coca-Cola, terrible Coca-Cola, terrible McDonald's. Because they want to be alike. They don't want people to distinguish who is poor, who is black, who is white, who is man, who is woman."

(Continued on page 2)

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI

China to Launch Campaign against Illegal Migration

Chinese police are to launch a nationwide crackdown on illegal migration.

The campaign was unveiled in Beijing on Monday at a national conference on combating illegal migration. It is scheduled to begin on April 1.

Action will center on illegal mass emigration by boat, stowaways hiding in shipping containers, and foreigners illegally using China as a transit route. Authorities also said the rapid repatriation of illegal migrants in China was a vital part of the campaign.

Participants at the Ministry of Public Security-sponsored conference said illegal emigration still exists in some areas of China due to the impact of worldwide illegal migration and international criminal gangs.

Zhao Yongji, Vice-Minister of Public Security, urged police departments to adopt different methods to "dig out" the so-called "snake heads", or human traffickers.

He also called for united efforts by different public security departments and more cooperation with foreign counterparts in information exchange and action.

Police arrested 9,465 stowaways in 2001, a decrease of 18 percent from the previous year. A total of 1,405 alleged "snake heads" were arrested last year; 229 were convicted.

(Xinhua)

Visiting Peres Picks Politics over Poetry

(Continued from Page 1)

Peres and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon do not seem too alike: they belong to different parties. Peres said he saw no choice but to cooperate after the election.

"I can be in the opposition and make speeches for peace," says Peres, "but then I should be a poet."

His job was to cooperate with the right, join the government and create a majority for peace, he said.

"If I was outside the government, my speeches for peace would be wonderful," he said.

"If I want to write poems, I should leave the government. If you want me to build a majority then I have to stay in the government."

Choosing the political path of negotiating for peace was, he said, a little like being a watchmaker. But a watchmaker can stop the watch and then repair it.

"A politician must repair the watch without stopping the watch," he said.

At the end of the interview, Peres wrote a note to Beijing readers wishing China a brighter future.



Kabul airport

China's Afghan Aid Arrives

By Xiao Rong

The first plane touched down in Kabul on Monday after a two-hour flight from Kashgar Airport in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The Chinese government will pack 30 million yuan (about US\$3.6 million) urgent humanitarian assistance aboard a succession of plane bound for the Afghan interim administration.

The assistance promised last December includes medical appliances and equipment, medicine, sports facilities and stationery.

Some first-aid medicine and medical equipment is also being sent to Afghanistan to help the country recover from the earthquakes on Wednesday, said Sun Yuxi, Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan at a press conference yesterday.



Xinhua Photos

Soccer Riot Shames Xi'an

Xi'an has been banned from hosting any further first-division soccer matches this season, after fans clashed with police and set fire to a stand and a police van at the end of last Sunday's first-division match between Sha'anxi Guoli and Qingdao Hainiu. The match ended in a 3-3 draw. After investigating this season's first soccer riot, the Chinese Football Association (CFA) announced in Beijing Wednesday that the organizers of the controversial match would be fined 100,000 yuan and barred from hosting Sha'anxi Guoli's home matches for the rest of the season.



Photo by Du Jianguo

Outraged Surfer Pursues 'Free E-mail for Life' Service

263.net decides to charge mailbox fee

By Xiao Rong

One of its 12 million free e-mail users sued 263.net yesterday, accusing the company of breach of contract.

Xu Xilong, the plaintiff, spoke out against the company's announcement that it would begin charging for its e-mail service from May 21.

Criticism and arguments flew after the decision last Monday.

The company, the first Chinese website to provide free e-mail and still one of the country's most popular sites, will begin charging five yuan per month or 50 yuan a year for its mailboxes.

"263.net has transgressed our contract for breaking its promise of providing a lifetime of free e-mail service for users," Xu told Beijing Today.

The case is China's second online contract dispute. Nasdaq-based Sina.com, one of China's largest web portals, also encountered a similar lawsuit last September when it cut the memory of inboxes in its free e-mail service to five megabytes from 50 megabytes.

Lai Yunpeng, a lawyer from Tianjin, charged Sina.com for unilaterally modifying the contract between them, which has brought much inconvenience to him and other users. Sina.com finally won the lawsuit.

Lai appealed to the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court, and the final trial has yet to begin.

Interviewed by Beijing Today, Zhang Jialin, chief judge of the Sina case, stressed that any customers who have signed a form contract with products or service provider must abide by the clauses of the contract.

"In this case, Sina.com stated in its form contract that it has the right to alter or end its e-mail service, and so any e-mail users who signed the form contract by clicking the mouse are regarded as agreeing to this precondition. But Sina.com had previously made an announcement of its reduction of mailbox memory," said Zhang.

Customers are free to switch to other e-mail service providers if they don't agree with the contract modification.

"The 263.net case is similar to that of Sina.com's case," he said, "regarding disputes over Internet service rights between service providers and users."

But Lai Yunpeng insisted Sina.com has infringed on the rights of its mailbox users. "It is stipulated in the Contract Law of China that any clauses in a form contract exempting the responsibilities of contract makers while increasing consumers' duties are deemed as invalid clauses," he told Beijing Today.

"So the unilateral revision of the form contract by Sina.com is unjustified according to the Contract Law. If such behavior were not stopped by the court, similar disputes between service providers and consumers like the case of 263.net will continue to occur," he said.

As the lawyer to the plaintiff of 263.net case, Zhang Ren told Beijing Today he was confident of winning the suit.

"263.net has promised in its form contract to provide permanent free e-mail services to its registered users. So its unilateral modification of the contract by charging its users for e-mail services is invalid."

Huang Mingsheng, president of 263.net, claimed their charging for an original free e-mail service was lawful, as the company had announced the decision to users two months in advance.

As to its promise of providing lifelong free e-mail service, 263.net rejected any further explanations to Beijing Today.

"If 263.net has promised to provide permanent free e-mail service and later altered, then it is against the basic principle of our Civil Law, which is honesty and credit."

"Moreover, both the Consumer Law and the Contract Law of our country have inclined towards protection of the valid rights of consumers in certain clauses. In this case, 263.net cannot exempt its responsibilities by unilaterally changing its former promises," said Wang Weiguo, a professor at the China University of Political Science & Law.

"The market economy is actually a contract economy, demanding both parties of the contract abide by basic rules. And the Law tries to balance the interests of both, especially those of the consumers," said Zhang Yufeng, director of Huacheng Law Office.

Confident as Xu may be, whether or not 263.net will lose the suit remains to be seen. Zhang Ren said he hoped domestic internet service providers like 263.net and Sina.com would increase their awareness of the law as they change business policies.

"Whether 263.net loses or not this time, it's certain it will lose lots of customers by infringing on their valid rights, even though it aims to offer upgraded e-mail service by charging," said Zhang Ren.

Chinese Internet Firms Pledge Self-Discipline

More than 100 Chinese Internet companies signed a public pledge on Tuesday to promote self-discipline in the country's Internet industry.

The pledge stresses the establishment of a "self-disciplinary mechanism" aiming to advance the "healthy and orderly development of the Internet industry in China".

The signatories agreed that patriotism, observance of the law, fairness and trustworthiness were the basic principles of self-discipline for the industry.

The pledge encourages "lawful, fair and orderly" competition and emphasizes the importance of the protection of intellectual property, network security and the elimination of deleterious information from the Internet.

China has promulgated a series of laws and regulations relating to the management of the Internet, such as the recent decision on safeguarding Internet security enacted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

(Xinhua)

Techno Tag to Tame Bike Chaos

By Shan Jinliang

Every bicycle-owner in Beijing will have to apply for a new identification tag as of April 1. The authorities hope the new tags will help bring the city's chaotic bicycle situation under control.

"A 2001 spot check revealed that over 1,300 bicycles out of 2,000 inspected had no tags or licenses," said Zhang Jingli, director of the Beijing Public Security Bureau of Traffic Administration. "The city's overall number of registered bicycles was over 10 million by the end of the last year, which is much less than the real number."

Zhang says the 2002 bicycle tag will improve on its tatty 10-year-old predecessor by being more hard-wearing, difficult to fake and dangerous to steal. The details of the new tag will be registered in the network of the city's traffic administration, making it easier to track down lost and stolen bikes. Each tag will carry a nine-digit code, which the administration will also carve into the steel frame of more expensive bicycles.

Previously, said Zhang, all information on Beijing's bikes was listed in a manual card system. "The bicycle management network is inefficient, making it hard to find lost bicycles," he said.

Bicycles in Dongcheng, Xicheng, Chongwen and Xuanwu Districts are to be the first to have their tags changed, followed by Chaoyang, Haidian, Shijingshan and other suburban districts. The whole process is scheduled to finish by the end of this year. Bicycles without 2002 tags will be barred from Beijing's streets from March 1, 2003.

Owners must show an invoice when buying a tag for a new bicycle; if he or she wants to register an old bicycle, they must return the old tag and license.

This year's tax is 4 yuan; owners of old bicycles who have not paid last year's tax will have to pay 8 yuan. Payments can be made at 44 non-motor vehicles registration sites.

Festival Eyes Asian Architecture

By Wang Dandan

An avant-garde architectural project close to the Great Wall at Badaling is set to feature at this year's Venice Biennial, Europe's most prestigious arts festival.

The "Commune By The Great Wall" is the work of 12 young architects from across Asia. Rocco Yim from Hong Kong is responsible for the overall planning, and the distinguished contemporary Chinese artist Ai Weiwei is the landscape designer. The Commune is being developed by Redstone Industries, owned by celebrity real estate couple Pan Shiyi and Zhang Xin.

The first phase of the Commune includes 11 villas and one clubhouse, each designed by one of the twelve Asian architects.

"It is time now that Asian architects take the stage. The reason we chose young architects is that they have avant-garde ideas. They emphasize concepts and insist on transcending form," said Zhang Xin.

The project began construction on February 4, 2001; the twelve buildings of the first phase are scheduled to be completed on May 1 this year. Redstone plans to promote the development as a hotel.

Star TV Starts in China

By Wang Dandan

Star Group, a division of Rupert Murdoch's News Group Asia, will launch its twenty-four hour, seven days a week (24-7) channel in the Pearl River Delta in South China at the end of this month.

Star Group signed a contract in December last year with China Central Television, China International Television Group and Guangdong Cable Television Group on the 24-7 channel to be launched in Guangdong Province. Star is the third foreign broadcaster to be granted access to mainland cable viewers in affluent Guangdong, which borders Hong Kong.

In October, AOL-Time Warner's Chinese-language channel China Entertainment Television and Hong Kong-listed Phoenix Satellite Television, which is 38 per cent-owned by News Corp., also won approvals.

In return, Star has agreed to air CCTV Channel 9, an English language news and current affairs channel in San Francisco and Los Angeles through its US sister company Fox Cable Networks from April.

No Layoffs at HP China - Yet

By Wang Dandan

The 19.5 billion dollar marriage between Hewlett-Packard and Compaq appears to have survived a corporate civil war.

Despite the best laid plans, such mergers often create confusion over dueling cultures and product lines, leading to defections by employees and customers.

HP and Compaq will have to resolve culture clashes, mesh product lines and soothe customers amid the not-so-cheery atmosphere of the planned 15,000 layoffs worldwide.

Huang Lei, public relations spokeswoman for HP China, told *Beijing Today* that up to now, the company's China operation had not laid off any staff. "The result will come out within a few weeks", she said. Some papers have reported that, as there is some overlap in HP and Compaq's business in China, a 30% cut in staff is expected.

2001 China PR Made 2 Billion

By Yang Xiao

The global economy crashed in 2001 as the Nasdaq headed south, IT firms (particularly dotcoms) went bankrupt, unemployment soared and then there was the 9.11 terror attack. PR firms as part of the service industry were directly impacted. But on the Chinese side, the effects were slight.

According to a recent survey China's public relations sector made 2 billion yuan last year. The survey, released last week by China International Public Relations Association (CIPRA), shows a rise of over 33% on 2000.

The average increase in annual revenue for multinational agencies was 20%. Local agencies reported better performance for 2001. The average increase in annual revenue for local agencies was 40%.

There are currently over 100 PR firms operating in China each with more than 20 employees and more than three long-term clients. Over 10,000 PR practitioners are active nationwide.

The PR market is focused in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, which account for 60% of the total PR market, with Beijing ranking No. 1.

Major sources of business fall within IT products and daily consumer goods. 80% of PR firms mainly serve the IT industry, among which 90% are local.

Intel Digital Creativity Contest Results

By Yang Xiao

Chipmaker Intel announced the winners of its "2001-2002 Intel Digital Creativity Competition" last Friday. The contest received 4,035 entries, from participants ranging from four to seventy-five years in age. The website www.intelcreate.com received 5 million hits during the course of the competition. A total of 20 artists entered the final stage.

"With the help of Intel's P4 processor, we can create better artwork," Yang Xu, general manager of Intel China said at the award presentation. He stressed that Intel would pay more attention to PC's practical use in the future.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Is It the Season for Leaving?

Almost in unison, senior managers of Compaq, Microsoft and web portal Sohu have stepped down

By Yang Xiao

Jack Gao, general manager of Microsoft China sent an e-mail earlier this month to his friends, "I will leave the post of general manager of Microsoft China on March 29..." before disappearing, to the astonishment of many. According to insiders at Microsoft, Gao's departure is related to disunity among senior management. Only a month ago Gao announced publicly, "I have a responsibility both to Microsoft and the national benefit."

The air is thick with rumors as to what lies behind Gao's abrupt departure. Scenario One has it that Gao was set up as an interim leader in the lead up to Microsoft's bid for the contract to supply office software to the Beijing Municipal Government. Gong Dingyu, who took charge of the bidding, did not want anybody to intervene in the project. Eventually the government chose the domestically produced Kingsoft over the popular Microsoft software. Gong had been widely rumored to be Microsoft Chi-



Microsoft's Jack Gao



Compaq's Alex Lee

Photos by Photocom

na's next G.M., but after the company's failure to win the contract with the municipal government, the rumor faded away.

Scenario Two puts Gao's departure down to conflict between him and his immediate superior, Microsoft Greater China G.M. Alex Huang. Huang believed Gao did not meet the company's goals in 2001, espe-

cially in terms of government relations. In April, Microsoft will hold a global meeting at its Seattle headquarters. Gao has been unable to secure the attendance of a senior government minister, so he must resign before the meeting.

No one outside the company appears to know exactly what is behind Gao's departure, meanwhile Huang has sent an e-mail

to employees assuring them, "we will find an interim leader soon." Then comes Tang Jun, general manager of one of Microsoft technical center at Shanghai. This Tuesday Microsoft China released the news that Tang would take in charge of business development, marketing, sales, technical support, corporate image, government relations and all relevant management and coordination in China.

The post of general manager of Microsoft China is charming but mysterious for media. Prior to Gao taking over the post, Juliet Wu was at the helm, until she resigned. The reason widely circulated at the time was that she too was merely "a figurehead".

On March 11 managing director of Compaq China Alex Lee, resigned from his post. He said in an interview, "My resignation is irrelevant to the merger. I have thought this matter over for months and have been gradually handing over my responsibilities during this period." He knew that other employees had handed in their res-

ignation, "I heard about that, I hope they can deal with this sort of matter correctly."

Since announcing his resignation, Lee has received four offers from headhunting companies, all of which he has turned down. He plans to found his own high-tech company. "I hope I can excel in the Chinese IT field. The proposed company will engage in software research and development."

During the course of Gao and Lee's resignation, Sohu's two senior managers resigned. The managers were former founder of Chinaren.com, which was acquired by Sohu. They expressed that they would do business on telecommunications in China.

There are so many senior managers leaving in March. Is it a season for leaving? One unnamed consultant at a multinational head hunting company said, "They leave because they have done their full year's work and handed over to the deputy leaders. Then they could leave. Therefore the date may be chosen in March."

Notebook Prices Fall Again

By Sun Zhen

Digital China Corporation, the general agent for Toshiba notebooks in China, is advertising on the Internet a sales promotion of Toshiba notebook. It seems that the momentum of the price reductions on notebooks is not easy to slow, a fact that should please consumers.

Today you can purchase a name brand imported notebook at a much lower price than just a month ago. In fact falling prices have been a trend since 1998, when some notebook manufacturers started talking about "ten thousand yuan notebook". From the dawn of 2000 there has been a series of price wars in notebook market. But what is different this time around is that foreign manufacturers have joined the fray.

On March 4, 2002, Digital China Corporation announced an 8-10% across the board cut in the prices of their notebooks, with some products being cut by up to 13%. By doing so, Toshiba became the first foreign notebook brand to break the price bulwark after China's entering the WTO.

At the beginning of this year, China began implementing the new tariff policy on imported IT products. Duties on 34 kinds of IT products have been reduced by 10%. Lu Wei, general manager of Digital China's notebook department, says the cuts are a result of the new duty policy, adding that the price reduction would promote sales of their products.

Other key players in the market such as NEC, Compaq and Dell responded immediately by cutting the prices.

Compaq reduced its prices by 12-14%, a move that brought it immediate benefits, with the company's share in the consumer market increasing by around



In March, the main focus of interest in the notebook market is price

Photo by Chen Shuyi

2% in the space of one week.

However HP, which ranks 8th in the consumer notebook market in China has shown little interest in dropping prices. Yuan Limin, manager of HP's notebook sales department, told *Beijing Today*: "To some extent, the move by Toshiba was just aimed at attracting the attention of the media. Only a few, but not the mainstream products, have dropped their prices." Yu also said that HP's goal for its notebooks in 2002 was to rank fifth. How the company achieves the goal depends not on the rise or fall in prices but on how it evaluates

the notebook market. The merger between HP and Compaq on March 20th has been hot news for the IT industry. Yu believes the merger will promote sales of both companies' notebooks.

IBM still does not have an obvious strategy of cutting prices. When asked how the company planned to keep its position, Tom Fang, account manager of IBM notebook sales department replied, "This year, we will continue to develop new products to serve our clients, to promote sales and to increase their number of sales agents." But the manager parried the question of price

reduction, saying simply that IBM would make its prices more "transparent to the clients".

Regardless of their actual responses to price reduction, almost all the notebook manufacturers believe that price reduction is unavoidable during the course of economic globalization. When speaking of the big sale of notebooks, some experts said that apparently it was because of the tariff reduction, but in fact it resulted from over-optimistic projections in 2001, which left inventories bulging with products to be digested in this year's distribution channels.

According to the forecast of the China Center for Information Industry Development, China's notebook market is still in a growth stage, and will keep growing steadily. It is predicted that the growth rate for the notebook market in China will reach 40-50%. Foreign manufacturers are going to great lengths to secure a slice of the Chinese market, because the duty reduction offers significant opportunities. The foreign brands will compete with the domestic brands at the same starting line, and a price war between them is inevitable.

LOGISTICS

FedEx Links with Kodak Express

By Su Wei

Federal Express and Kodak announced an agreement on placing FedEx drop-off boxes in Kodak Express stores in Beijing

this week. FedEx drop-off points are now available at nine Kodak Express stores in key business and commerce centers around the third ring road, such as the Kerry Center and the Kunlun Hotel.

The agreement, which is in a six-month trial phase, is the

first such cooperation between FedEx and Kodak in the Chinese mainland.

FedEx delivery bills and envelopes are also available at the stores, and the Kodak staff have been trained to assist in filling out the forms, weigh and calculate the fees for the shipments and other necessary procedures.

The cut-off time for parcels for international express will 12 noon from Tuesday to Fri-

day, but customers can drop off their parcels at any time during Kodak Express' opening hours, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fees for customers using the Kodak Express drop-offs will be discounted by 10% for the first six months as an opening promotion.

FedEx China and Mid Pacific Region Director of Marketing Malcolm Sullivan, says the two companies "share the same operation value. Films brought to Kodak are important images to

people. The packages to be picked up are also important to them!"

Antonio M.H. Lee, Kodak's General Manager of Retail and Channel Management, Consumer Imaging, Greater Asia Region, expects the additional service will attract more customers to Kodak and will help Kodak expand its services beyond film processing, digital imaging and photographic products.

Howard Kwok, Marketing Manager of FedEx China em-

phasizes, "We are just in a six month pilot program! There is much more (to this) than profit." Lee agrees, saying "We do not care at this stage about making a profit or not. We focus on the service profile!"

However, all expressed confidence that the new service will give a successful result. "The more frequently we pick up shipments in Kodak, the more efficient we are proved to be!" Said Sullivan.

China to Recruit Agriculture Experts

By Zhao Hongyi

China's most authoritative agriculture research institute has called on scientists to compete for 100 jobs, aiming to enhance the abilities of the nation's 900 million farmers to feed a population of 1.3 billion.

The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences released its 100-million-yuan recruitment program for 25 disciplines targeting genetic modification technology and functional genomics, bioinformatics, macro-agriculture and agriculture-related policies and management and biosafety.

The minimum annual salary of a recruited senior scientist will average 100,000 yuan, with 500,000 yuan for living accommodation arrangements and a 4 million-yuan budget for scientific research programs.

The Academy stated in its press release that all positions are for five years. More details are available at: <http://www.caas.net.cn>.

First Bank Wins Currency Permit

By Wang Dandan

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) became the first foreign bank to receive approval to offer foreign currency services in Beijing and also Shanghai.

In May 2000, HSBC moved its China head office from Hong Kong to Pudong, Shanghai. The HSBC network on the mainland comprises nine branches, a sub-branch, and two representative offices. It is applying for a second sub-branch in Shanghai.

Area to Build New Slab of Commerce

By Zhao Hongyi

The Beijing Development Area (BDA) administration plans to top up its industrial zone with a 3.5 billion yuan worth of new commercial area for companies, businesspeople and local residents. Construction will start later this year.

The 400,000-square-meter "business center" will include luxury hotels, financial centers, commerce and business towers, standard apartments for senior management professionals, and a business and commerce complex.

Established in 1994, the BDA -- also known as Yizhuang (Yi Village) Economic & Technological Development Area -- is a municipal government zone targeted for overseas investment.

BDA has nearly 200 overseas companies including Bayer of Germany, Shiseido of Japan and a Coca Cola factory.

"After the using up the scheduled 15 square kilometers of land, more and more inhabitants moved in and are living in the area, thanks to the fantastic environment we created from the very beginning of development," Li Fengling, director general of BDA, told media earlier this week.

"This reminds us of a business center after the completion of industrial facilities and residential houses. In addition, people need a place to relax after a day of hard work."

"We spent 2 million yuan inviting experts for the overall design of the block. People can do business here in the daytime and relax in the evenings," she said.



Photo by Chen Shuyi

Porsche Displays New Sports Car

By Jiang Zhong

Sports car manufacturer Porsche demonstrated its 911 Turbo at the Porsche Center in the city on Wednesday.

Liu Handong, Porsche Center media manager, said the import showed the manufacturer's confidence in the Chinese market. Although not a big market for the company, sales saw steady improvement in the last few years.

The 3.6-liter 911 Turbo engine features a flat-six cylinder configuration. With a top speed of 305 km/h, 0-100km/h takes just 4.2 seconds and 0-160 km/h 9.2 seconds.



Brand, James Brand

Pierce Brosnan's image looks down on a SharMoon Garment contract signing held in Beijing on Wednesday. Brosnan and Gong Li will in future promote the brand

Photo and text by Xinhua

Foreign Firms Preparing to Slice up Furniture Market

By Wang Ling

Four giant furniture companies are swooping on the capital. With market investigation completed, the four firms have been sighted in the city negotiating locations and partners.

Lily Marlene of France, Obi of Germany, B&Q of the United Kingdom and Home Depot of USA have come to compete with Ikea. The Swedish giant got here first in 1998. But their rivals are ready.

China's furniture market in 2000 was worth 2.43 billion yuan, 2.6 times higher than that of 1999. In Beijing, a rapid growth of finished residential area has seen in the past decade and is still increasing by more than 10 million square meters each year in the coming 10 years. This brings also huge demand for furniture and home facilities supply.

And as new apartments sprout up across the city the market for secondhand housing - a relatively new concept in China and the city -- is also booming, with redecoration and remodeling doubly in vogue.

The Market Association of Beijing's survey found foreign firms today enjoy a 10 percent share of the furniture market. Ikea's turnover in Beijing has

increased rapidly. In the 2000 financial year, total Ikea sales increased 43.6 percent. Ikea's success has encouraged its foreign craft brothers to come to China and carve up the market.

The association identified about 100 furniture marketplaces in Beijing, with more than 30 over 10,000 square meters. A further 10 marketplaces are added each year, the survey revealed.

"Beijing might have the largest number of furniture marketplaces in the world," said Guo Jie, deputy secretary general of the association.

"Although the demand is very large, the supply is enormous. So the competition is certain to be hot."

Ikea is a top dog in town in the eyes of both foreign and local companies. But city newcomer B&Q is the biggest furnishings company in Europe, and third in the world. The British company has laid out an ambitious expansion program for China.

"Although B&Q isn't familiar to most Beijingers yet, we are confident we can profit more in Beijing than in Shanghai," said Chen Hao, B&Q China president.

The company will build 58 stores in the next five years in

China, he said. Beijing is top priority.

The foreign companies come to China with their own advantages and disadvantages.

"In the long run," said Guo, "the coming of foreign furniture companies is beneficial to the development of the furniture market."

"They provide customers with a pleasant shopping environment, exquisite design and good after-sales service. But their disadvantages are simpler style and comparatively high prices."

Local furniture companies also enjoy advantages and disadvantages.

"Their greatest merit is comparatively lower prices, but the catch is poor management and deficient after-sales service."

Nearly one-third of the local furniture marketplaces operate at a loss, according to the survey. Less than 20 percent make profits.

"They should learn good experiences from each other, join hands to make the cake bigger and benefit all," said Guo.

"Two critical points should be taken into consideration in this process. One is service, and the other is credit. They are the sink-and-swim issues for both foreign and domestic furniture companies in Beijing."

PeopleSoft Prepares for China

By Wang Dandan

PeopleSoft will enter the Chinese market at the beginning of April, according to sources from the company.

Established in 1987 in California, PeopleSoft engages in management software for the Internet. It claims more than 4,700 organizations in 107 countries use its products.

The company is selling its "PeopleSoft 8" software to China currently. But its Chinese name is still under discussion at the moment.

Indian Software Expertise Arrives

By Zhao Hongyi

Indian software solutions and training provider, the National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), launched an educational program in Beijing this week.

The institute introduced its software teaching program to be launched in the University of International Business and Economy on Huixin Dongjie in north Beijing.

The city of Beijing says it needs at least 40,000 software engineers and professionals in the next few years.

NIIT's Shanghai representative office, the only one in China, told *Beijing Today* they will, at a right time, start its software development business locally.

Symphony Telecom Launched

By Fan Haitao / Shan Jinliang

AT&T President Armstrong and China Telecom General Manager Zhou Deqiang proclaimed earlier this week in Shanghai the birth of China's first joint venture telecom corporation in Shanghai Pudong Economic Development Zone, Shanghai Symphony Telecom (SST).

The contract broke through the policy barriers of China's telecom industry, a *Beijing Youth Daily* article observed on March 25.

SST will cover the terminal-to-terminal telecom service, enabling users to enter the AT&T global network through a terminal of China Telecom.

"Foreign investors will march toward China after the end of 2002," said Chen Jinqiao of Beijing Telecom Planning & Designing Institute, "as the market will have reconstructed itself by then and the telecom administrations will publish new clear laws and regulations on it."

Oz Bank Bags Mortgage Rights

By Zhao Hongyi

The race to become the first foreign firm on the Chinese mainland to provide mortgages to Chinese consumers has been won by an Australian bank.

Macquarie Securitization Shanghai, a joint venture between the Macquarie Bank and former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, will accept applications from house buyers and conduct evaluation and processing. Loans will be issued by China Construction Bank.

"Shanghai continues to grow and is the business center of China - it has a strong future and we believe there will be significant residential development opportunities," said Steven Papadopoulos, Macquarie Property Group Division Director.



Volkswagen's Polo



Fiat's Palio

Photos provided by Sina.com

Palio, Polo Promoters Jostle for Purses

By Jiang Zhong

Nanjing Fiat announced Palio's entry into Beijing market on Friday morning last week.

Costing 95,900 and 109,900 yuan, the two 1.5-liter models were paraded at Juyongguan Great Wall. Another 84,900 yuan model will be brought to the market in June this year.

The company claimed some 10,000 Palios had been ordered since the car's national debut in December. Its sales agents in Beijing said they had received 3,000 orders, of which 250 Palios have been delivered.

But no sooner had Palio appeared than Volkswagen Polo pounced to steal the limelight. The unpriced Polo came out in Beijing Monday this week, only two days later but won louder applause.

"Volkswagen has proved its reliability through its nearly 20 years' presence on the Chinese auto market," said Li Huajiang, a super fan of various cars. "But I have never driven a Fiat. None of my friends have either."

"Quality and service have a stake in auto manufacturers' success on the market." Said Li.

Market researchers predicted the 1.4-liter Polo would be priced under 130,000 yuan.

"Polo will not impact upon Palio's niche," said Cheng. "The low price and up-to-date comfort, convenience, safety, emission and engine design are our sales points."

City's Green Machinery Needs Your Support

By Chen Ying

The sinister sandstorm that swept across North China last week provided a timely reminder of this city's need for green.

But green space costs greenbacks and Beijing's attempts to invite sponsorship of its grassy knolls so far has met with a mild case of the blues.

Beijing in 1998 began its adoption program advocating people or companies to sponsor greenbelt areas at 6.5 yuan a square meter.

Parks, public lawns, residential areas, road sides, woods and landscaping -- the city has about 100 hectares of green up for grabs, which cost about 500,000 yuan to maintain last year. But that's just a drop in the ocean compared to the total 2,800 hectares of greenbelt in the city.

"The government really wants to promote awareness of protecting the environment in people's minds," said Wu Shulan, an official of the Beijing Bureau of Parks and Landscapes.

After signing an agreement with the administration, adopters can tend to their patch themselves or front the cash for city grounds people. In exchange, the government promises a signboard with the adopter's name, the patch's name, its total area and the terms of adoption.

Few took up the offer.

But the city received a strong response from the people of Beijing. Because of limited funds, some wanted to adopt a tree or a smaller slice of greenbelt. But the administration found this concept too difficult to convert into economic reality.

Companies at first showed interest.

"But some abandoned the idea when the administration insisted on erecting the same style of board and the same content on each board," said Wu.

Since July, no one has signed an agreement with Beijing Bureau of Parks and Landscapes.

Some question the whole concept.

"The people should be responsible for lawns. But is it proper to erect boards around the green space?" said Han Xiaoming, an economist of Renmin University.

Better to pool money into a public fund and support another scheme, he said.

Beijing Bureau of Parks and Landscapes Hotline: 6841-9312



Ma Zhongyi

Man Attacks, Ties up Students in Women's Dormitory

By Sun Ming

A clinically-depressed male sophomore conducted an abortive mugging of two female Beijing college students last week.

Police declined to release the name of the well-known university where the confessed culprit, Ma Zhongyi, made his bizarre attempt for freedom.

"I'm free now," Ma said to assembled reporters, as he sat handcuffed in Da Zhong Si police station.

Ma said he had crashed into the toilets of the female dormitory building on Tuesday midnight last week with one purpose in mind: in order to be captured.

Two students were washing their hands there. Ma demanded cash, threatening them with a knife and a fake pistol. When they refused, he tied them together with rope and tape. "I didn't think more about it at that time," said Ma. "I just wanted to commit a crime. I was also nervous. When they cried, I was nearly struck dumb."

Li Yin, a junior at the college, then entered the washroom.

"I tried to run back out, but finally I was captured by him," Li told *Beijing Youth Daily*.

"I didn't know how and what to do," said Ma. "I just said 'Keep calm, please.' But these words really did work!"

Ma then dropped his knife and shouted to the tied-up women to call the police. According to a *Beijing Youth Daily* article of Wednesday last week, Ma then called the police himself.

Ma says he hails from a poor family in Lanzhou, Gansu. He has been depressed since entering college as he hates his major: electronics.

"How boring! It was my dream to go to Beijing Medical College. But I had to choose electronics under pressure from my family members."

Last semester, Ma passed one and failed seven courses. He told his mother he wanted to quit school and then register for medical college examinations. But his mother said 'no'. Ma's father died in 1994.

According to classmates, Ma is introverted with no friends at college, even in the city. He underwent psychotherapy since he was a freshman and was diagnosed as suffering depression and received medication.

Ma said he wanted to commit suicide, but lacks the courage. "I hope to be put in prison, even be executed by shooting," he said. "I really want to escape from my life circle. I saw no other way to rescue myself besides committing a crime."



Photo by Jacky

Japanese Flower in Beijing

By Zeng Peng

Visiting former Japanese foreign minister Makiko Tanaka is taken completely by surprise when she stumbles into an old friend at Yuyantan Park on March 24.

Lin Liyun was once the interpreter for Tanaka's father --

the late Kakuei Tanaka -- the Japanese premier who normalized diplomatic ties between Japan and China in the 1970s.

Lin said she and Makiko, 57, are old friends and this picture surely proves it. They paused for a picture beside the park's Japa-

nese cherryblossom, a gift to the Chinese people 30 years ago by Makiko's father.

Tanaka herself was dismissed on January 29 by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. His popularity ratings immediately declined as a result.

Foreign Entrepreneur Plugs Fitness Business

By Su Wei

Regular exercise pays off -- literally -- believes the 30-year-old general manager of the Beijing Evolution Fitness Center.

"We always say 'one dollar invested in fitness for an employee wins two dollars back,'" says Matt Lewis.

People sometimes do not understand that the return on their investment in fitness is not just a better physique, says Lewis.

"They will not be sick," he says. "They are saving on medical costs. They can work harder with a better feeling. They are able to earn more money!"

Lewis left New Zealand four years ago and came to manage Lido Country Club. He coached rugby coaches in New Zealand and was once also manager of a fitness club in Thailand.

Beijing meant a challenge. "But if you do not want to be a man, then just stay at home," says Lewis.

"I like doing something new. The Lido club was bigger."

With the challenge came difficulties -- "not only the lifestyle, the understanding" -- tested him. Although not always happy, Lewis says he made sure he appeared happy in his work.

"I know I am paid to do so," he says.

Innovating to manage Clark Hatch Club of the Beijing and Lido hotels, he

found himself negotiating more with the decision makers.

"I had to compromise and find the solution among the three parties -- the club management staff, the company expanding the club and the hotel owners."

But perhaps it was the latter layer that prompted Lewis to spot a gap in the market. Fitness centers in Beijing mainly associate with hotels.

"They are too expensive and only open to the hotel guests," says Lewis. An idea that might pay off had been born. Evolution Fitness Center directly behind Motorola Building on Jianguomenwai Avenue opened in July.

The competition appears to leave him unfazed.

"People who go to Tianxing Fitness Club or Nirvana Fitness Club are not our target group," he says. "We focus on people working and living near us. We are interested in a four-kilometer area."

"People should get the results by their coming to see and to experience at the center." Fitness can release work worries. "People can go home refreshed."

"It is the people themselves that work out what kind of result they want to have," says Lewis.

"If they just do some exercises following instructions from television programs, they might do the wrong thing."

He promotes a personal program monitored by coaches. "It is true that doing exercises is for fun," says Lewis, "But even I sometimes have to force myself to do exercise."

That's why he advocates his healthy, friendly, lucrative fitness center.



Matt Lewis

Photo by Qu Liyan

Foreign Affairs

'Magnificent Seven' Land on Great Wall

By Shan Jinliang

Greenpeace took to the world's largest man-made barrier to deliver an urgent warning to the international community to "save the world's remaining ancient forests now before it's too late."

Atop the Badaling Great Wall, the group held seven gas-filled inflatable animals they dubbed the Magnificent Seven. Badaling tourists eyed them quizzically on a clear Sunday morning.

The animals and the publicity grabbed attention as both domestic and overseas paused for funky animal photos. Two Austrian tourists even took out their purses to try and donate



Photo by Hu Jinxi

their schillings towards the animals. The offer was politely declined.

The inflatables symbolized the seven ancient

Unlucky Clerk Beaten up outside City Hospital

By Sun Ming

He got no compensation, but he did get a bloody thrashing.

After returning to seek justice from a costly misdiagnosis, a mobile phone clerk was beaten almost blind in one eye as staff looked on outside the Beijing Asian Games Village (Ya Yun Cun) Hospital.

The hospital declined to answer questions from *Beijing Today*. "It has nothing to do with our hospital because we don't know the assailants," said Han Ziquan, secretary of the hospital. "Perhaps it was just a gang-land fight."

Liang Yao, 25, is at home now, waiting for his wounds to heal. On balance, he decided he would rather not return to a hospital.

Liang says he first visited Asian Games Village Hospital in north Beijing on March 13, complaining of itching around his genitalia.

"I saw a 'Dr Yang' at the urological department. He diagnosed my illness as herpes."

The doctor suggested Liang take injections for two weeks at about 500 yuan a shot: total 7,000 yuan. Liang said he could not afford it and left.

As he had never touched another woman outside his girlfriend, Liang drew an inevitable conclusion.

"I really didn't understand how I could be suffering from such a disease," said Liang. Liang blamed and beat his girlfriend, according to *Beijing Times* on March 20.

The couple went to Renmin Hospital in Xicheng District the next day. Liang's girlfriend received a completely clean bill of health. The doctor told Liang he had "acrobystitis" and prescribed medicine costing 11 yuan.

Liang apologized to his girlfriend. She left him.

Five days later accompanied by friend Cao Qin, Liang returned to the Asian Games Village Hospital.

"I told the director Zong Shuting that the hospital had misdiagnosed my illness," said Liang. "I asked for 5,000 yuan for loss of worktime, the cost of travel and for mental suffering."

Zong refused. Liang says Zong treated them both as swindlers. "We haven't done anything wrong, so you won't get a penny out of us," Zong allegedly said.

Liang and Cao shouted that the hospital was dishonest. A guard approached and warned them he would call the police. That, Liang replied, was exactly what he wanted.

Three minutes later, a minibus appeared outside the hospital and in walked a heavy stranger. He dragged Liang out of the hospital. The man and four others then proceeded to beat Liang senseless. Hospital staff witnessed the entire process, said Liang, but no one intervened.

Cao said he ran to the hospital director's office seeking help. But Zong Shuting refused, allegedly saying, "I don't know who they are, so I don't have the responsibility of dealing with the beating."

Police arrived 10 minutes later, but the five assailants had left a minute earlier.

Liang's unconscious body was covered with bruises and his left eye was bleeding freely.

The doctor responsible denies any misdiagnosis. "Genitalia herpes and acrobystitis share the same symptoms," Dr. Yang told *Beijing Times*.

But a doctor who declined to publish his name told *Beijing Today* the two diseases do have quite different symptom. "The former is a serious venereal disease, but the latter is just a common inflammation."

Liang believes the beating was deliberate.

"The five assailants were called by the guard of the hospital," said Liang, who claims no previous personal enemies.

"But I can't find a single witness who saw the minibus license plate number."

The case is under investigation by Yauyuncun Police.



Photo by Jiang Shuo

Lost & Found Inc.

Shenyang to set up rewards system

By Chen Ying

Good deeds do not come cheap in Shenyang, Liaoning. Establishing China's first state-of-the-art system for handling lost-and-found articles seems to be becoming transmuted into a business venture.

The Shenyang Municipal Office of Spiritual Civilization Promotion, police and local media held a seminar to discuss founding such a network in the middle of this month.

Before the seminar, *Liaoshen Evening News* published articles advocating a brand new concept: an advanced, integrated computerized network to help people locate their lost articles.

The concept employs technology to connect each individual with a central lost-and-found office, assisting them in both locating and collecting lost articles. At the seminar, the police were agreed as most suitable administration to erect and supervise such a network.

Sun Changsheng, deputy director of Shenyang Police Bureau, produced a blueprint later in the seminar — the local police station would make out a receipt after the article was handed in. Then the station would tell the police sub-bureau control center to input the detailed information into a computer.

The owner of the lost property can then search through timely information via a website or on the phone. To operate such a network requires staff and financial support. Allowing the clammy hand of market capitalism to touch on the selfless acts of individual philanthropy troubles those who like their Lei Feng spirit undiluted.

Opinions follow:

Spokesman, Shenyang Police

After the seminar, we tried to make a plan for the network. You know, op-

erating such a network is very complicated. It's a new concept in most people's mind, but nobody knows how to operate such a thing. Shenyang Municipal Government will make the final decision about how to run it in the future.

Translator, Japanese, requested anonymity

I never heard of any such network in Japan. People usually hand in an article at the police station in my country. There are some statutes in Japan encouraging people to hand in items. For instance, people picking up the money will obtain about 10 percent when the loser reclaims it. If there is no response for more than a year, it's finders keepers.

Li Yiping, professor, Renmin University of China

I think the idea is feasible. After all, it provides a platform for communicating between finders and losers. Basically, there are two ways of maintaining such a network — the government gives some financial support or a payment from people who lost their property. I can understand people getting some kind of reward after they helped others.

Today, the pace of life is so fast and everyone tries to save every minute. They will be anxious when they lose something. Some warmhearted person who picks up an article has to invest time and energy seeking out the owner of the lost property. The network can save time for both sides, and it's perfectly reasonable to receive some kind of payment. I think building such a network doesn't destroy the original idea — helping people who need help.

Wang Bing, clerk

I disagree with building such a network as many lost-and-found offices exist in each city. People already have many ways of finding things they lost.

To run such a network will just be more or less a kind of business venture. The operator will maybe encourage people to hand in articles. Although people who do good deeds should receive encouragement, it's by no means a must. I hope children don't think that doing good deeds is just about receiving some kind of reward.

Whether people hand in an article depends on their character. This spirit — helping others for no return — should be promoted from time to time.

Taxi driver, requested anonymity

Building such a network gives the owner more opportunity to regain lost property. Is that better than not finding their property at all?

It's no big deal installing some kind of business concept into the idea. Whether it can stand the test of time depends on how it runs. It's an exploration of how to encourage people to do good deeds in our era. It's better to do something than nothing.

Zhang Guoqing, official, Beijing Taxi

Building a lost-and-found network is an effective method of helping people. Maybe there is some business angle on this idea. But you shouldn't say it's wrong for people to receive some sort of payoff for helping others.

Taxi drivers often find articles passengers leave behind. And the owners of the lost property usually promise to pay the drivers. But most drivers won't accept the money when they return the articles to the owners.

Foreign Parents Face Difficult School Choices

As more foreign students come to Beijing, more Chinese schools are opening their arms to them. The president of Beijing Private Hui Jia School, Wang Jiajun went to South Korea in February to conduct interviews with students who intended to come to the school. Meanwhile, other teachers of Hua Jia went to Malaysia and Japan to recruit foreign students.

Hui Wen, a Beijing public high school, like Hui Jia, is also allowed to accept foreign students. They are the newcomers among schools oriented toward foreign students, like the international schools in Beijing or those with an international student section.

For foreigners wanting to educate their offspring, there are important questions to answer. How much should they pay? Which school should they choose? Yvonne Gluyas, a mother of two school-age children resident in the city, investigates.



Yvonne Gluyas

By Yvonne Gluyas

The educational choices available to parents of foreign children in Beijing range from bilingual kindergartens for 1-year-olds to university education for the over-18s.

Lucky indeed are the parents who work for companies or embassies providing a salary-and-conditions package including education expenses of that employee's children. They can choose a suitable school from the glossy brochures published by the handful of international schools. Teachers employed by international schools, if hired from their home country, are also often given free tuition for up to two children at their school.

The next group of foreign parents includes those working for companies that, while they may not actually pay for the education of employees' children, their salaries are high enough to afford a choice of school.

But there are a growing number of foreign parents in Beijing on lower wages, who do not have their children's educational expenses covered by their employer. They find their problem almost unsolvable.

Some may have a Chinese spouse, but their children do not speak, read or write Chinese well enough to attend a local government school.

Costs

As well as annual school fees of up to US\$17,000 per student, most schools charge a registration fee of US\$50-\$500, a large 'entry donation', 'capital levy' or 'building fund' payment is also often required. And don't forget parents might have two or three children.

Bilingual kindergartens cater to 1-6 year-olds. For typical costing examples of international pre-school education, the Lido Kindergarten Beijing's annual fees range from 45,000 to 87,000 yuan (US\$5,492-\$10,617), depending on the age of the child. The Little Professor Bilingual Kindergarten charges up to 40,000 yuan (US\$4,881) per year, which also includes food and bus transport.

The major English-language international schools in Beijing enroll students from 4-18 years old, and their annual tuition fee per student averages 136,000 yuan (US\$16,597).

These schools all provide a wide range of sporting, cultural and social activities, plus classes taught in English by extremely well qualified and experienced professional native-English teachers.

There are also smaller schools in Beijing, including those based at some embassies; schools catering for students who don't have either English or Chinese as a first language — including the French, Swedish, Arabic, Korean and Japanese — and private 'home-schools'.

The International Study Group, which conducts classes in English, charges 64,000 yuan (US\$7,810) a year. The school at the Pakistan embassy also teach-

es English and costs 40,000 yuan (US\$4,881) per year.

Cheaper alternatives

The alternatives are Fang Cao Di Primary School (FCD), Beijing World Youth Academy and No 55 Middle School, although teaching at these schools is done primarily in Chinese.

Fangs Cao Di International Primary School is a Chinese government school. Its international section has more than 400 foreign students.

All lessons, except English, are in taught in Chinese. Students who cannot speak, read or write Chinese undertake special 'intensive language' classes in their first semester. Annual school fees average 14,000 yuan (US\$1,708) a year. The 20,000 yuan (US\$2,441) entry fee can be waived for foreign experts.

Beijing World Youth Academy (BWYA) is a middle high school run by the Beijing Education Commission. Most of the 300 students are Korean. The school has good facilities, including a dormitory for boarding students, and an indoor pool and tennis courts on campus. Annual tuition fees are around 32,000 yuan (US\$3,905). The 20,000 yuan (US\$2,441) "donation" fee can be waived in some circumstances.

Beijing No. 55 Middle School has an international student section and all subjects are taught in Chinese. Its Middle Years Program, for students in grades 6-10, costs 28,000 yuan (US\$3,417) a year. No. 55's local pre-university program is aimed at international students planning to enter Peking and Tsinghua universities.

Some schools also have an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma program, taught in English, for senior students planning to attend international universities after graduation. The annual fee for this program is 50,000 yuan (US\$6,102).

Tough decisions

Basically, if a parent can't afford the international school fees plus the compulsory extras, forget about the child receiving an education in English.

Some new Chinese private schools may be persuaded to accept a child if he or she can speak Chinese. Also, if a foreign child is fluent in written and spoken Chinese and/or looks Asian, he or she may also be able to enroll at a local school. It's difficult but, depending on "connections", it can be done.

The main criticism foreign parents make of schooling in Beijing is that their child is isolated from local children. This is reflected both in the student's ability to learn the Chinese language and in the development of friendships between Chinese and foreign children.

Schools often have different "sections" for local and international students where they do not even mix together on the playground.

SOUND BITES

"We expect all workers to support the strike, not just those who are union members. It will be a total strike halting production throughout the country."

— **Achille Passoni, director general of the CGIL, Italy's biggest union, before an eight-hour general strike on April 16, the first for 20 years, in an increasingly bitter battle over the reform of the country's labor laws**

"The government must not sacrifice its principles, nor reach some kind of political deal with the United States."

— **Michel Tubiana, the president of Amnesty International and France's Human Rights League, asks that the US will not seek the death penalty in the case of Zacarias Moussaooui, the only person charged in the Sept. 11 attacks**

"Training the Afghan army will serve as a positive step to

help ensure that there is a better chance for peace and security in Afghanistan and that the country is not used as a terrorist haven in the future."

— **Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff**

"For nearly five years, the legal wrangling by industry lawyers has delayed critical progress in delivering cleaner, healthier air to the millions of Americans that will be protected by these standards."

— **Vickie Patton, senior attorney for Environ-**

mental Defense, an American environmental advocacy group

"This moment is so much bigger than me. It's for the women that stand beside me, Jada Pinkett, Angela Bassett, Vivica Fox...and it's for every nameless, faceless woman of color that now has a chance because the door tonight has been opened."

— **Halle Berry, best actress award, 74th Oscars ceremony**

By Sun Ming

Teachers Carry a Heavy Burden

By Su Wei

Few truly committed to their jobs

50% of the surveyed teachers say they would probably change their job if they had the opportunity. In contrast, less than 18% say they like their work and never think about changing jobs.

The reason may be that teachers' salaries are relatively low. Teachers are seen as being responsible for educating the younger generation. But the average monthly salary of 2,000 yuan might seem to many inconsistent with this great responsibility.

Teachers are not allowed to sit during class. Neither may they wear make-up. Furthermore, most schools require teachers to stay at school for almost ten hours a day, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. especially those under the age of 40 years old.

But teachers consider such demands a waste of time. "I cannot concentrate on preparing classes at school. Six or nine people share one office and students make so much noise during the break!"

Meanwhile, the long hours spent at school results in little time for teachers to take care of their families and do housework, often more of a problem for female teachers.

"As soon as I get home, I have to prepare dinner, wash clothes, check my own child's study and other chores, as well as my regular workload as a teacher," Liu Wei, a primary teacher in her thirties complains.

Another reason may be that some teachers see schools as a means of obtaining residency permits, especially those without Beijing residential IDs.

Teachers can receive a Beijing ID after working in the city for one year, a policy originally aimed at attracting university graduates and improving the quality of teachers.

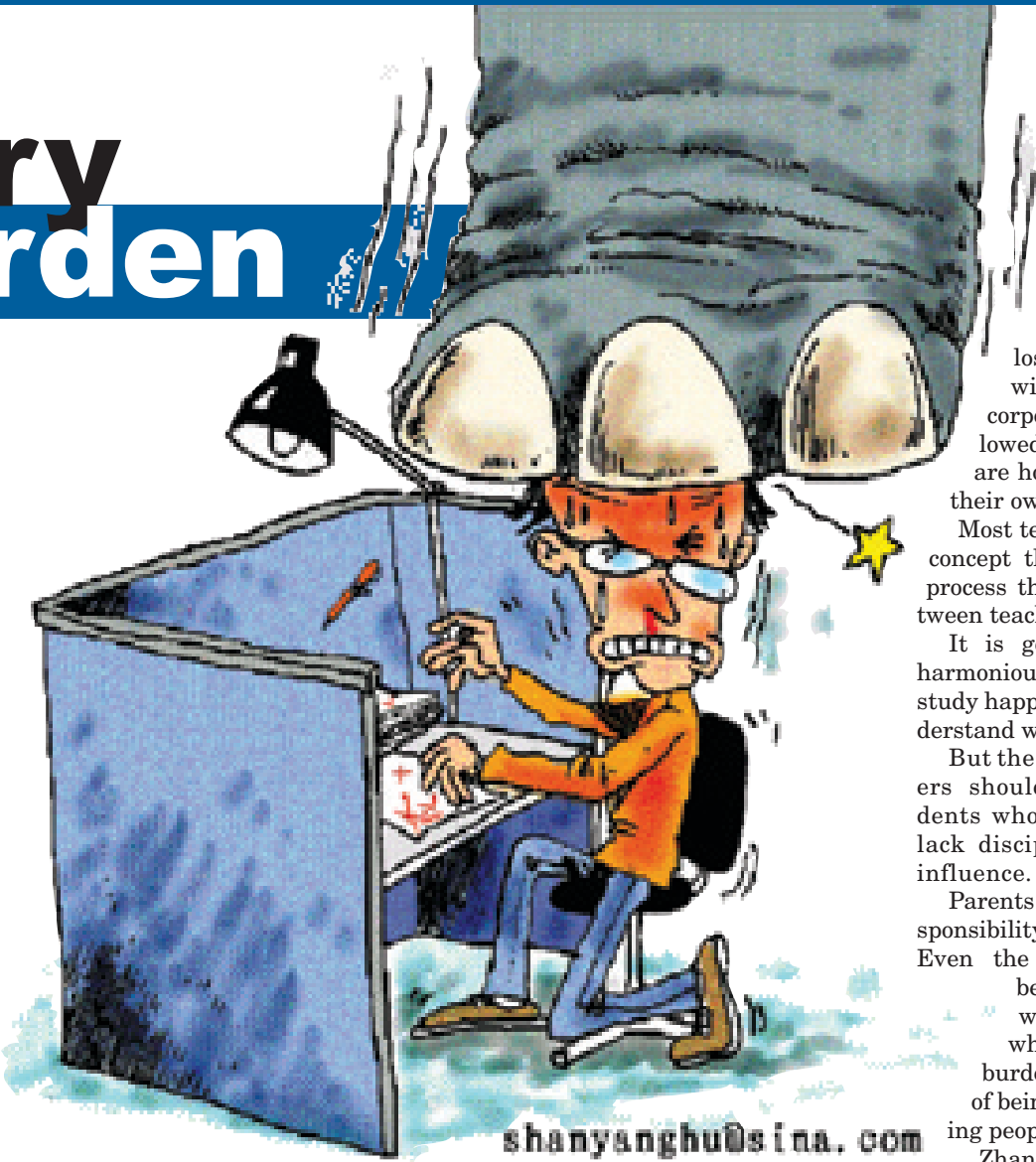
More and higher qualifications

Among the over 93% of surveyed teachers who feel teaching has become

Do teachers like their jobs? How do they handle the pressures of their work? What do they think about their relationship with their students? Beijing Education & Science Research Institute has recently released a survey conducted among over 300 primary and middle school teachers throughout Beijing.

more difficult, nearly 54% say they suffer anxiety and are more easily agitated.

One reason is that with the promotion of education reform, teachers are required to update their knowledge and be capable of using advanced teaching methods.



shanyanghu@sina.com

Computers have replaced projectors in classroom demonstrations, so teachers are required to become computer-literate, and even be familiar with some computer programs such as PowerPoint.

Meanwhile, teachers in Beijing are also required to reach a certain standard of both Mandarin and English proficiency, without which they are not allowed to teach. So merely being experienced does not mean being qualified or guarantee keeping one's job.

With a shift of focus to building students' capabilities, teachers are required to encourage students to be flexible in applying what they have learnt.

Li Hua, a Chinese teacher has noticed that in recent years fewer questions in exams are taken directly from

the textbooks.

Besides teaching materials updating almost every year, frequent inspections and job evaluations have also put an additional burden on teachers.

They have to prepare essays on education methods or research their subjects, attend public classes as models for leaders or teachers from other schools.

Just because they love their students

Nearly 50% of the surveyed teachers say they themselves or their colleagues have shouted at or insulted students. But 39% of those insist that they do not intend to do so, rather it is out of love and a sense of responsibility towards the students.

While some teachers may lose their temper when faced with undisciplined students, corporal punishment is not allowed in Chinese schools. Teachers are however required to correct their own behaviour.

Most teachers are influenced by the concept that education is a two-way process that requires interactions between teachers and students.

It is generally agreed that in a harmonious environment, students can study happily and are better able to understand what they are being taught.

But the traditional idea that teachers should be responsible for students who fail to get good marks or lack discipline still exerts a strong influence.

Parents may over-emphasize the responsibility of teachers as educators. Even the teachers themselves may be afraid that the students will fail to make achievements when they grow up. "We are burdened with the responsibility of being the 'engineers for cultivating people's souls'".

Zhang Yonghe, a teacher in his forties, admits he sometimes loses his temper with his students, but says he is never really angry with them. "I know they are young. I know I should be more patient."

But he argues that sometimes, gentle persuasion does not work when a student has not finished his or her homework or is lying. "Is it useful to just smile at them and say, 'Please finish your homework,' or 'It is bad to lie.' It does not work!"

Zhang says that no teachers desire their students to turn out to be "rotten apples" and he does not believe that any teachers hate their students.

Like Zhang, most teachers probably agree with the maxim, "Children are like the young trees, which will never become mature timber without pruning." But they all hope their students will have a bright future.

美食 · 娱乐 · 休闲 TEL: 68997124 68311626

ZiyiXuan Baochi Lou 紫怡轩鲍翅楼

3rd Floor Building B,
Donghuan Guangchang,
29 Dongzhong jie,
Dongcheng District
东城区东中街 29 号东环广场 B 幢 3 层
11:00-14:30, 17:00-22:00
6856.9388

Beijing Roast Duck 北京烤鸭店

Building 3, Tuanjie Lake, Chaoyang District
朝阳区团结湖北口 3 号楼
11:40-14:00, 17:00-21:30
6852.4003

Bianyifang Roast Duck Restaurant 便宜坊

2A Chongwenmenwai Dajie, Chongwen District
崇文区崇文门大街甲 2 号
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30
Tel: 6712.0505

Spice Orchids Thai Restaurant

Welcome to our Spice Orchids Thai Restaurant.

Our features are undeniable: Walls decorated in purple and deep wine red; colors that really work together to produce a harmony; food that lie on in its contrasts; chefs that create a wonderful medley of hot, cool, sour, sweet, crunchy and soft dishes. Fish cake, deep-fried Taro, Green Pepper & Red Curry Fried with Beef and Minced meat fried with Basil leaves are not to be missed.

And, we have an unique Chinese name, Tai Xiang La, which means Spicy Thai Restaurant, verbally; and Very Good Smell, phonetically.

You're likely to satisfy your taste buds for a mere of RMB18 up, with weekday set lunch from RMB25-50. Tasty and inexpensive. A very good casual dining experience.

Add: 8 South Street, Guan Dong Dian, Chaoyang District.
(North of Kerry Centre Hotel and the back of Hot-Point Disco)
Tel: 6591.7726 Fax: 6591.7926

CLUB GREEN

BEST CLUB IN BEIJING

ADD: Land mark Tower 1/F 8 North Dong San
Huan Road. chaoyang District Beijing

地址: 北京市朝阳区东三环北路 8 号亮马河
大厦一层

TEL: (010) 65906999 65906688 — 2988

COME & BE AS COOL AS —
GREEN



New French Restaurant Now Open!

来过罗兰·加洛斯吗?

不知你有没有来过罗兰·加洛斯, 有没有尝过这里鲜嫩的蜗牛, 有没有就着奶酪品味波尔多的葡萄酒, 有没有燃着古巴雪茄欣赏网球公开赛? 侍者是彬彬有礼的, 还能把每款酒, 每种烟的来由娓娓道出。氛围是典雅的, 还有温暖浪漫的烛光。

这里还有独具特色的网球文化主题服务: 专门从海外订购的网球历史文化资料, 精彩纷呈的网球主题活动和球友内部通讯, 主题网站与“一网打尽”网球网络联盟。

Spoil yourself with genuine French fare and ambiance and a superb variety of wines at the **Roland Garros** restaurant. Close a full evening of relaxation with a choice of dramatic desserts, coffees, and Cuban cigars.

ROLAND GARROS
RESTAURANT & BAR, BEIJING, CHINA
罗兰·加洛斯 餐厅

罗兰·加洛斯网球主题法式餐厅
Roland Garros Restaurant
Open: 11:00-24:00 Daily

地址: 朝阳区农展南路朝阳网球俱乐部北门一层
Address: North Entrance Chaoyang Tennis Club
Nongzhan Nanlu, Chaoyang District
Telephone: 6508-9100

北京好世界阳光酒店 BEIJING FANTASY WORLD CLUB

It offers a full range of services, including fine rooms, restaurants and entertainment centre.

FU LIN Seafood Restaurant: more than 100 kinds of fresh seafood are now 20% off.
Korean Flavour Restaurant: newly open, supply Korean food and barbecue. 20% off.

Entertainment Centre: Bowling, billiards, karaoke and gymnasium.

Tel: (010) 68843388-718/620

Add: 1 Gu Cheng Nan Lu Shijingshan District

(100 meters in west from Gu Cheng metro station)

电话: (010) 68843388-718/620 (详见店内海报)

地址: 石景山区古城南路 1 号 (地铁古城站西 100 米)

Donglaishun Restaurant

东来顺

5/F, Xindong'an Plaza, Wangfujing
Da jie, Dongcheng District
东城区王府井大街 新东安商场 5 层
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30
6528.0932

Fan Shi Gang

饭是钢

140 Andingdajie, Dongcheng District
东城区安定大街 140 号
9:00-23:00
64042187

北京之夜酒楼 Night of Beijing Restaurant

Special offer of seafood as well as many other dishes and salads: shrimp: RMB38; lobster / clam: RMB98

Pleasant ambience and sufficient parking space.

Address: 1 Dayabao Alley, Dongcheng District

Tel: 65272672, 65272704 ext 8865

粤菜 中华餐 商务套餐

特价海鲜 基围虾 38 元 龙虾/象拔蚌 98 元

数十款 10 元菜及特价菜: 多款夏日清爽沙拉。

本酒楼内设多间文化厅房, 环境优雅, 备有充足车位。

地址: 东城区大雅宝胡同 1 号 电话: 65272672 65272704 转 8865

Scholar Digs Up a Scandal

A 600-word article by a financial researcher has sunk a listed company



Liu Shuwei,
Researcher at China
Central Finance Uni-
versity.

On October 8, 2001, the board of Lantian Stock Holding Corporation posted a message alerting investors to pay attention to risks because an investigation into Lantian by the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) was underway.

Wangzhi, CCTV reporter(W): Your attention was drawn to Lantian by chance. Was there anything special about Lantian compared with other listed companies?

Liu Shuwei(L): I began to analyze Lantian's financial statements on October 9 last year and was astounded by the result. In 2000, Lantian's net operating capital reached minus 127 million yuan. This fact and other indices indicated that Lantian had passed the critical point and was incapable of maintaining a cash flow. It was only surviving by virtue of bank loans. A risky situation both for the banks and Lantian.

W: Have you thought of verifying those figures with Lantian?

L: Why do I need to verify the figures? The data was posted publicly after being audited.

W: Why is it you were the only one to question the public data?

L: Because my teacher told me that one should dare to propose one's own conclusions, so long as you can prove what you say.

W: When did you begin to write the article?

L: Right away. I began analyzing Lantian's financial reports on October 9, 2001. As soon as the analysis was done, I wrote the article and faxed it to the editorial department of *Finance Insider* on October 26.

"Finance Insider" is a restricted publication affiliated to the Finance Times.

Its distribution list includes the Central Financial Commission, leaders at the People's Bank of China and related directors.

On October 26, 180 copies of "Finance Insider" bearing Liu's article were printed. Relevant state banks stopped giving new loans to Lantian later.

Twenty-four days after the publication of Liu's article, two strangers came to Liu's organization. One was Qu Zhaoyu, President of China Lantian General Corporation. The other was Chen Xingliang, Vice-president of Lantian.

L: I asked them what's the matter? Qu said you are interested in Lantian. I asked him how he knew that. He took out a photocopy of the *Finance Insider* issue with my article in it. I was surprised, and said, "*Finance Insider* is a confidential publication. How did you get it?" He said a friend had given it to him. I said *Finance Insider* is only submitted to the Central Financial Commission, leaders at the People's Bank of China and related directors. You can't read it. He replied 'I have a status of a deputy director. Why can't I read it?' I said, "There's a strict restriction. Only relevant directors at the People's Bank of

China can read it. You are not from the People's Bank of China."

W: Why did you care so much about how he obtained the *Finance Insider*?

L: It showed that confidential state information had been leaked. He then lost his temper and said, "Your article asks all banks to suspend loans and now they have done so!" He said the bank did not suspend their loans at the time of CSRC investigation. "But as a senior official made instructions based on your article, all banks have stopped their loans. My capital chain is broken. We are dying!" Then I asked him which senior official, and why didn't I know about it? He didn't answer. Then I said you have sufficient capital, the banks' loan suspension is unlikely to affect your business. I told him, "I have seen your financial statement. It indicates that your cash revenue reached 1.27 billion yuan from aquatic products alone in 2000, which means you have more than 3.8 million yuan of cash coming in every day. How can you say you are short of money?" Then he shouted, "How can we not lack money? All our business has stopped!"

W: In the case of Lantian, how long would it be able to survive if the bank loan had continued?

L: If the bank loan is given, the question should be not how long can Lantian survive, but how long can the bank survive. Qu said his stock holding corporation has more than 300 million yuan in loans and the general corporation has more than 1 billion yuan in loans. Adding them together, the figure exceeds 2 billion yuan. The bank has given you 2 billion yuan in loans, is that not enough? We are a developing country!

W: What did they ask you to do?

L: Qu asked me to publicize my analysis report. I agreed to. He asked, "Can you let us take a look before it is published?" I said, "There's no need for that. If you think what I say is wrong, you can respond publicly." And I added, "I have a responsibility to Lantian to do this. You can't repay the loans if things keep going on like this and your debt keeps mounting up. You know the consequences." Then Qu shouted, "You will kill Lantian!"

L: About 5 p.m. of November 23, the phone in my home rang. When I picked it up, a voice said "I'm Chen Xingliang from Lantian." I was surprised, because you can't obtain personal phone numbers by dialing 114. I had a bad feeling.

On November 26, Liu wrote a report about her analysis on Lantian shares and submitted it to her superiors.

On December 13, Liu received a subpoena issued by the People's Court of Honghu city, Hubei province. Lantian Stock Holding Corporation sued Liu Shuwei for her damaging the company's reputation.



China Lantian headquarters in Honghu, Hubei province

Since listing on the Shanghai Security Trading Market in 1996, Lantian Stock Holding Corporation increased its stock capital by 360%, from 460 million yuan to 1.84 billion yuan.

However last October, China Central Finance University researcher Liu Shuwei penned an article questioning the Lantian miracle, landing her in deep trouble.

In the article, Liu argues that Lantian is nothing more than an empty shell and urges banks to withdraw their loans to the company immediately.

CCTV's News Probe program aired an interview with Liu last weekend. The following is an edited transcript of that interview.



China Lantian occupied this building prior to 2000. It is now a Honghu restaurant

Lantian demanded Liu issue a public apology and pay 500,000 yuan compensation to Lantian and undertake all legal fees incurred.

L: I called *Finance Insider* immediately after receiving the subpoena. They said nothing. I went to Beijing No. 1 Intermediate Court the following day and reported that Lantian Stock Holding Corporation had stolen confidential state information. They told me it is a criminal case and I should call the police. When I called the police, I was told I should make the report to *Finance Insider*. When I called *Finance Insider* again, nobody answered.

W: What actions did you take?

L: I sent a fax to Qu Zhaoyu at 8 a.m. on December 17 saying I'll disclose my analysis to the whole world if you don't withdraw the lawsuit against me. About 5:30 p.m., that day, Qu called my home. He was very happy and said, "*Finance Insider* has printed a statement in its latest issue. Don't you know?" I was more astounded than ever because I had no idea about it.

On December 12, 2001, a statement in "*Finance Insider*" Issue 19 said Liu Shuwei's article reflected her own viewpoints and not those of the editorial department.

L: On January 10, 2002, I checked my mailbox. There were four threatening letters stating that January 23 was "my doom day".

W: What was special about January 23?

L: The court session was scheduled to open on that day. I dialed 110, and a few minutes later, a patrol police officer came to my home. I explained to him what has happened. He told me, "Justice is sure to win over the evil. Don't be afraid. I support you!" This was the first time I had been given open and actual protection and support since I received the subpoena on December 13. I'll remember that policeman with gratitude for the rest of my life.

W: Were you scared during the long process?

L: No, there was no use to be afraid. But I was scared after the event. Suppose the police hadn't taken action on that day, what would happen if the court case had gone ahead on January 23?

W: Were you worried that something might happen?

L: I was worried that my life would be at risk. Such things have happened before.

W: You are a scholar and you simply published the conclusion of your

research in a confidential publication. Why did it bring you so much trouble?

L: Such things should not occur. A lawyer says, "This case should be a big joke in Chinese legal history. In other words, it is a scandal."

W: Why do you say it is a scandal?

L: It has tarnished the law.

From January 3, Liu sent her report, titled *The Miracle of Lantian* to more than 100 domestic presses. On January 22, Liu received a notification informing her that the court hearing on January 23 had been suspended.

On January 21, the board of Lantian Stock Holding Corporation, by then renamed Shengtai Nongye (Eco-agriculture) posted that some 10 corporate management personnel had been accused of providing fake financial data and detained.

Qu Zhaoyu, President of China Lantian General Corporation was put under investigation.

On January 21, 22 and the morning of the 23, Shengtai Nongye shares were suspended from trading.

On March 18, the shares were renamed ST Shengtai.

W: Your article destroyed the miracle of a listed corporation. What do you feel about this matter?

L: It was not my article that destroyed the miracle. CSRC had started investigating Lantian before my article was published. My concern now is that the bank should have spotted such an obvious problem. But why did they give the loans that they shouldn't have given? Why weren't the loans suspended? Some other factors must be behind it.

W: You mean nobody cares about this matter?

L: Nobody speaks out this matter. The bank failed to take immediate action. There are so many master and doctorate degree holders in the bank. How could they fail to notice this problem? There must be other factors.

W: What sort of factors?

L: As a listed company, how did Qu obtain a copy of *Finance Insider*? If such a factor can't be eradicated, it is difficult to ensure credit security. Such factors should not exist in a healthy market economy.

W: Does the factor you mentioned mean abuse of power?

L: I think the public should analyze this issue. Suppose it is a matter of power, the question is how someone can use their power to do such kind of things? How can they be prevented from abusing their power? Those are what we need to think about.

Lantian Stock Holding Corporation has still not withdrawn its lawsuit against Liu Shuwei.

CSRC is currently conducting an investigation into Lantian.

(By Ivy Zhang)

Who is Qu Zhaoyu?
President of China Lantian General Corporation.
Born in 1948, Honghu city, Hubei Province, he joined the army in 1968 and served as press director at Shenyang Telecom Administration and Vice President of Shenyang Administration Institute.
He founded Lantian Corporation specializing in agricultural products in 1992.
In 1999, the company was found to have produced fake IPO documents and fined 100,000 yuan by the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC).



"Baby, is this your first time on the plane?"



In Jiang's office, chocolate is the most popular gift for colleagues

Flying between West and East

By Zhu Lin

Jiang Xiaomeng works in the air, but she's not a pilot or a flight attendant. An in-flight interpreter for Air France for the last three years, Jiang lives in a half-French and half-Chinese environment. "I believe I've struck a balance between the two cultures in my mind," she says with a smile.

First case of culture shock

A graduate of the French Department of Beijing Foreign Languages Institute, Jiang went to study literature in Pau in the southwest of France in 1998.

Once when stir-frying eggplant for dinner in the dorm's public kitchen, one of her classmates, attracted by the delicious smell, asked her, "How can eggplant be cooked in this way! Can I try some?" One after another, four fellow students asked her the same question.

But in fact the half eggplant was all Jiang had left for her own dinner, and she didn't have enough money to buy more for four guests! She didn't say anything, however, not wanting to lose face. It was totally out of my expectation!" she recalls, but she shared her dinner with her classmates, even though they each only had one or two pieces.

"I know they wouldn't have asked me to share with them if I'd told them the truth," she laughs, "But, you know, I just can't be that straightforward, like westerners. That's the first time I experienced culture shock."

A plane is a small world

Air France initiated the idea of an in-flight interpreting service in 1997. In year 1999 when Jiang returned to Beijing, she saw an Air France advertisement of for interpreters in China. Jiang thought the work could broaden her horizons and would suit her, as she was outgoing and communicative by nature. She finally got the job, but didn't know at first what the word "service" meant.

Jiang's job is to offer language service and harmonize the relationship between the passengers and crew on the 10 to 11 hour Paris-Beijing and Paris-Shanghai flights. Usually she makes three or four return trips per month, and has free time between flights in both cities. "A plane is a small world and you can meet all kinds of people and all kinds of situations," Jiang says. "Fortunately I haven't yet encountered a passenger who has upset me to the point of crying!"

During such a long flight, passengers sometimes become easily irritable, especially when the plane encounters turbulence. Sometimes they might put on a show of anger in order to hide the fact that they are scared. At those moments, the flight attendants and interpreters are responsible for making them relaxed.

Once a middle-aged French woman pointed at the meal she had been served and said, "I am not used to eating such oily food as the Chinese do." She knew the woman didn't mean to be unfriendly, but she also felt it was her responsibility to make some explanation. "Chinese food is classified into different types," Jiang responded with a smile, "Just like the food in other countries, some types tend to be more oily, but many others are much less so."

At first, Jiang often complained to her husband, who she describes as being particularly levelheaded. "Even the manager of a top company might meet equal embarrassments," he said to her, "So you should just regard it as part of your job. But of course, you should keep your own standpoint."

A happy kind of work

During her three years working for Air France, the 30-year-old Jiang has grown up together with her passengers. One of the regular passengers on the Beijing-Paris run is 12-year-old boy. Usually he takes the plane twice a year because he studies in Paris and spends the holidays in Beijing with his grandparents. Jiang has met him on the

"A plane is a small world, and you can meet all kinds of people and all kinds of situations ... That's why my work is full of excitement."

— Jiang Xiaomeng, an in-flight interpreter for Air France



Jiang quizzes her husband on what he has been up to while she was away.

Photos by Zhang Hongjiang / Yan Tong

We are interested in reporting common people, their stories, their feelings. If you have any personal experiences or you know someone who have such experiences, please contact us.

We would like to help you

if you have any trouble, we would like to share your happiness if you are cheerful.

Our E-mail Address is:
Portrait @ ynet.com
Our Fax Number is:
(010) 6590 2525

flight on four occasions. She once asked him, "Do you prefer China or France?" He replied, "Both." The first time she met him, he was only nine years old. Now he's 12, and much taller. "I enjoy the feeling of seeing him growing up," says Jiang.

Early this month, Jiang met a blond French baby in its mother's arms on a flight. She was no more than one year old and still hadn't learned to talk. When she saw Jiang's Chinese features, she reached out her little hand and touched her face. "She was so lovely! I felt so happy!" Jiang said, "That is the most lovely and true kind of contact!"

Jiang can always find interesting and new points about the passengers she meets in flight, "That's why my work is full of excitement." She feels the Chinese businessmen on the plane are quite sociable and internationalized. "They not only know how to communicate with foreigners, they have a desire to communicate," she says.

An account for life

Jiang loves reading in her spare time. Influenced by her father, a stage actor, she has been interested in western literature since she was a little girl. At the age of 14, she started reading Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*. When she found the book too difficult to understand, she simply persevered and has since read it eleven times.

Her long hair and bright eyes complement her expression when she's lost in thought. "I'm always thinking," she says. "Before meeting my husband, I was thinking about love. But now, I always think about life and death."

Her interest in literature has deepened in the time she has been working for Air France, a job that requires a sensitivity towards culture and humanity. She says she plans to write something herself in the future, but not just yet. "I need a period of time to arrange my thoughts, but I'm going to write something, for sure, to make an account for life."

Jiang and her husband often go traveling during their holidays. She has been to 11 countries and more than 70 cities, mostly in Europe. Describing the things she likes about places she has been, Jiang becomes the liveliest of narrators.

France

"France is like a museum. It has all styles of life and all facets of art. I like French red wine very much. It looks so brilliant. The delicious taste swings down to the deepest part of your heart, just like the aroma of France."

Italy

"I feel Italy is just like espresso coffee, whose taste is too strong to avoid. The ancient buildings and historical sites are everywhere. I envy the Italians' care-free life style. I enjoy looking at those people dressing colorfully, with their long hair combed back. Geographically speaking, Italy is God's favorite. It's as if God has presented them such a perfect place that they don't have to get

involved in the jungle of the modern world."

Greece

"In Greece, I love the style of churches on the island of Mykonos. There are dozens of churches on the island, and each is only five or six square meters in size. They have a whitewashed round head and a small blue crown on the top. Looking from distance, the island appears to be covered by snow. But when you draw nearer, you suddenly realize that it's the white churches."

Germany

"In Bonn, the downtown residents have the tradition of painting the exterior of their houses bright colors, while using the same ornamental white window curtain. I love walking among those three-story pink, yellow, green and blue houses in the sunshine after lunch. There may be a kitten sleeping on the windowsill, or a vase of flowers. I feel I'm in a fairy tale world when I'm there."

Gao used to paint at night, but now he has to work during the day, for the sake of his eyesight

Photo by Chen Shuyi



A Brief History

Snuff is ground tobacco, to which may be added various aromatic substances to vary the flavor.

Italian missionary Matteo Ricci is credited with introducing snuff to China on his arrival in Beijing in the late 16th century. Snuff bottles first appeared in the latter part of the 17th century. The snuff-taking habit slowly spread from the north, remaining mainly a habit of wealthy courtiers until around the middle of the 18th century. By the beginning of the 19th century, the popularity of both taking snuff and collecting snuff bottles was firmly established throughout the country.

The enormous popularity of snuff bottles, which became increasingly elaborate, continued throughout the 19th century and did not begin to abate until the Qing Dynasty finally collapsed in 1911.

From 1911 to 1949, the habit of taking snuff disappeared almost completely, and the art of making snuff bottles was likewise practically forgotten. However between 1950 and 1960, thanks to a special arts revival program initiated by the government, the manufacture of snuff bottles restarted - although more for collectors than for use.

Fakes Threaten to Snuff out A Traditional Art

By Miao Yajie

The art of painting on the inside of snuff bottles, like many other traditional folk arts, is in danger of being lost, due to a lack of young people willing to take up the craft. Paradoxically, the popularity of the delicately designed glass bottles continues to grow, especially with overseas tourists, thanks largely to the proliferation of cheaply made fakes.

Five or six years ago, tourist sites, department stores and markets were flooded with interior-painted snuff bottles. However, it is these, mostly fakes or inferior quality bottles, that pose the most immediate threat to the art form, says Gao Dongsheng, a master snuff bottle painter.

A once flourishing school

The name of the artist who first put his paintbrush inside a snuff bottle has long been forgotten, but by the end of the 19th century, there was a flourishing school in Beijing headed by Zhou Leyuan, who started painting between 1880 and 1882. Some of the finest works in this medium were produced in Beijing during the following thirty years or so.

Besides Zhou Leyuan, some of the most renowned names in the business are Ye Zhongsan, Ma Shaoxuan, Ding Erzong, Ye Xiaofeng. In the last fifty years, Wang Xisan and Liu Shouben are considered the greatest masters of the craft. Works by these artists are sought after by collectors worldwide.

Thirty-eight-year-old Gao Dongsheng was Liu Shouben's favorite apprentice. He was given the title "Folk Art Artist" by UNESCO in 1996.

Today, the total number of snuff bottle artists in Beijing can almost be counted on one hand. There are fewer than fifty qualified interior-painting artists nationwide.

With the booming of tourism, all the traditional folk crafts are in great demand. "There are all kinds of handiwork on the market, but unfortunately few are of a high standard," says Gao, "because people are not able to distinguish good from bad, genuine from fake." Hence the proliferation of fakes and forgeries.

Two types of fake inner-paintings

Take Panjiayuan flea market as an example, there are about ten stands selling interior-painted snuff bottles. Some of the stands sell only fakes; some sell the badly painted ones. Hand-painted bottles of good quality are rarely seen there. The prices for a fake can be as low as ten yuan.



Above: painted by Gao Dongsheng Photo by Chen Shuyi

Below: a fake bottle sold in a Beijing department store Photo by Xuan Zhang



There are two commonly found types of fakes. One type uses print technology. The forgers first print the outline of the design on a piece of cellophane, roll it, and paste it inside the bottle, and then apply color following the outline.

The other type uses the principle of developing film. A layer of sensitive material is smeared inside the bottle to develop the outline of a design. Adding color is child's play. Most of the fakes on the market were produced this way.

"Usually I finish one piece in half a month," says Gao, "but they can produce several tens or even a hundred per day."

Furthermore, according to Gao, some of the on-location 'interior-painting artists' at some tourist sites or stores are also fakes. They hold a brush and a bottle in their hands, but actually they are just sitting there pretending to paint. They are only capable of painting the easiest strokes if requested to do something on the spot. If you want them to paint something specially for you, your request is most likely to be turned down, with the excuse 'I don't want you to wait too long'.

"To print or paste designs inside the bottle, to some extent, can be called a 'reform'," remarks Zhang Tonglu, a former chief engineer at the Beijing Arts and Crafts Factory and also a master cloisonné ware maker. He says that interior painting is a slow work; it takes time, so prices are relatively high. Many people appreciate the art, but they can't afford the price of a good quality genuine interior-painted bottle. The fakes meet the demands of the market, however, "people should know the truth," he says.

Fakes threaten the business

So many fakes at such low prices in the Beijing market have had a negative impact on the trade. When Gao studied under Liu Shouben in 1983, he had eight fellow apprentices. Now Gao is the only one of these still engaged in the craft. Prices for the genuine snuff bottles have been driven down by the fakes to such a degree, that young unknown artists, although producing genuine works, were unable to receive a fair price. "They had no choice but to quit painting," says Gao.

Another effect of this proliferation of fakes is that the art form has lost its freshness and mystery to the young. Gao says he has held lots of exhibitions alone or with other people. People often tell him they like his art, but none really want to learn with him.

"Maybe the government will pay attention to the trade some day," says Gao, hopefully.

旅游 · 度假 · 休闲

TEL: 68997124 68311626

pick up your Walnuts on the Xiangshuihu Great Wall

Great Wall, Ancient Mountain, Cleat Spring, Flying Waterfall. join us to the Xiangshuihu Great Wall, you will see all the above scenery. Xiangshuihu locates at the west part of Mutianyu Huairou. Besides the lots interesting place, it also has a flourish orchard with apple, date, pear, walnut, chestnut, grape, edible wild herbs.

From August 25 to October, Xiangshuihu will have a special activity "Visit Great Wall, pick Up Fruits".

Call now: 010-61631085 61632539 61631588

Take bus: No.916at Dongzhimen

Web site: www.Xiangshuihu.com

友谊宾馆康乐部

The Friendship Hotel Recreation Center

The outdoor swimming pool of the Friendship Hotel is one of the highest standard swimming pools of Beijing. The swimming pool is equipped with 7-meter diving platforms and delicate diving boards. The strict sterilization measures and the circulation system ensure the water is always clean. Morning opening 6:30-8:30 RMB30/day, RMB400/month, and RMB1000/quarter. Tel: 68499696



友谊宾馆室外泳池是北京国际高标准泳池, 配有7米的跳台和巧巧的跳板, 严格的消毒措施和水循环系统, 使其永远具有碧蓝的水质。早场: 6:00 - 8:30, 30元/天, 400元/月, 1000元/季度。咨询电话: 68499696

彼岸潜水俱乐部 欢迎您

The Other Side (Bi'an) Diving Club

The club provides the sports fans with professional service besides fun and coolness in the hot summer. Adopting sophisticated foreign training textbooks and equipment, the club provides professional training such as the swimming and diving courses and organizes diving tours home and abroad. With the internationally accepted training method, it takes the trainee only 20 hours to get the CMAS diving certificate which is acknowledged all over the world. The trainees have free and flexible choice as to the training time. The swimming course consists of elementary level, improving level, advanced level, honored guest class and the class paid by the hour. Swimming and diving summer camp. Sign up now! Time for the opening of the courses: the early April. The trainee can begin the course on signing up at any time. The summer courses begin on 1 June. Course time: 9:00 - 20:00, 7 days a week. Time for signing up: 9:00 - 21:00, 7 days a week. Place for signing up: The Professional Club of the Friendship Hotel (No. 3, Baishiqiao Road, Haidian District, 200 meters south of Renmin University.) Tel: 68713790 68713791 68498613 Telex: 68713790 Take buses no. 320, 804, 302 or Yutong buses no. 104, 105, 205, 106 and get off at Shuang'an Shangchang stop. Or take bus no. 811 or Te 6 and get off at Renming Daxue stop.



北京彼岸潜水俱乐部是一家专门为体育爱好者提供专业服务的运动休闲俱乐部。在这里您可以享受一个清凉的夏季, 掌握专业的潜水技能, 还可以获得一些专业证书。 潜水服务介绍: 俱乐部自成立以来, 从国外引进了先进的教材和教学设备, 开设了游泳和潜水课程, 同时全年组织全国各地和世界各潜水旅行。用真正国际接轨的教学方法使学员经过二十小时的培训即可获得国际通用CMAS潜水证书。学员根据自己的时间安排选择上课时间。 潜水课程分为初级、提高级、高级、潜水教练、潜水旅行等。 暑期开办游泳潜水夏令营, 即日起报名。 开课时间: 4月初开课, 随报随学。 11月开设潜水夏令营。 潜水课程: 每天 9:00-20:00 (周末不休) 报名地点: 友谊宾馆专家俱乐部大厅 (海淀区白石桥路3号, 人民大学南 200 米) 报名电话: 68713790 68713791 68498613 传真: 68713790 救生教练: 运通 (104, 105, 205, 106), 320 路, 804 路, 302 路公交车下车, 811 路, 6 路, 人民大学下车



汇中颐园——距离城区最近的具有中国古典式建筑风格的商务会所, 位于东三环南端, 毗邻京瑞饭店、潘家园古玩城, 距离 CBD 驱车 10 分钟的路程, 它不仅拥有古色典雅的餐厅, 而且涵盖了六个风格各异、功能不同的四合院。

餐厅“养生堂”诚邀五星级饭店厨师加盟, 主理养生餐、新派粤菜。餐厅可同时容纳三百余人就餐。东西两侧十四间包房风格各异, 演出效果极佳的中央舞台巨大的京剧脸谱烘托出整个大厅浓郁的传统文氛围。与中央电视台合作为十一频道《戏迷俱乐部》栏目提供了录制场地。

汲雅斋为书画院, 由汇中颐园与中国书画家联谊会合办, 其既可以举行各种展览和笔会, 也可以供爱好者低价收藏名人字画及明清家具真品。

鼎盛阁, 其装饰以中国古文化为底蕴, 有记载中医学基础的《黄帝内经》, 也有《聊斋志异》中的《小翠》, 是商务会议及宴请的良好场所。茗茶居为茶园, 其包房有皇家式、农家式、日式等不同风格。古玩、玉器、灶台、腊肉、点缀其间。置身于此, 品茗论道, 其乐无穷。

颐生堂汇中颐园与中国中医研究院合作的养生健康咨询中心, 有中医保健、药浴等服务项目, 同时为会员建立健康卡。

汇中颐园——都市中的世外桃源。全体员工真诚期待您的光临!

电话(TEL): 67320035, 67322002-209 传真(FAX): 67320017



Exploring the Fringes of Space

By Zhao Pu

An architectural conceptual design competition has given students at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) a fringeless space of innovation and exploration to showcase their ideas.

"With naive language and sincere responses, they try to convince the world of architectural art that exploration and breakthrough on the fringes of space brings the possibility of infinity," says Professor Lu Pinjing, deputy dean of the CAFA Design Department, the organizer of the competition.

Intended to kindle the spirit of innovation and exploration among students, the competition, titled Fringes of Space, was launched last December. Participants were called to stress the invention of transitional spaces on top of the layout of construction, while maintaining environmental harmony. Some 56 designs had been submitted by the closing date for entries.

"With further development of architectural techniques; innovation and creating ideas are to become the real criteria of an architect," says Lu, contrasting this ideal with the current state of architecture education in most Chinese institutions, which has tended to be traditional and conservative since the 1950s, focusing on technical and functional strength.

In comparison with the 'mainstream' architectural education in some comprehensive universities, CAFA focuses on creativity and transfiguration. Competitions and projects are scheduled frequently to stimulate the creative talents of the students.

Their innovative efforts have been acclaimed by specialists in the field. "This design competition exploits a new garden for the architectural majors to penetrate into fringe areas in this discipline, and brings the art students a better understanding of architectural space," commented Zhou Chang, general secretary of the Chinese Institute of Architecture.

The direct beneficiaries are the students. Li Xiaoming, one of the competition winners says, "The education method in our department has been changing in recent years. This kind of competitions is starting to invigorate our learning."

"We are at the very start of the trail of innovative education in design, and I'm confident that our efforts will create a new trend in architectural education in China within ten years," says Lu.

A gleam of the spirit of the early 20th century's Bauhaus can be seen in the school's exploration of 'fringe space'. Meanwhile some future virtuosos in the field of world architecture may be found among these students, now feeling their way into the fringeless space of art.



First Prize: The Boundary after the Vanishing of Boundary Designer - Li Han

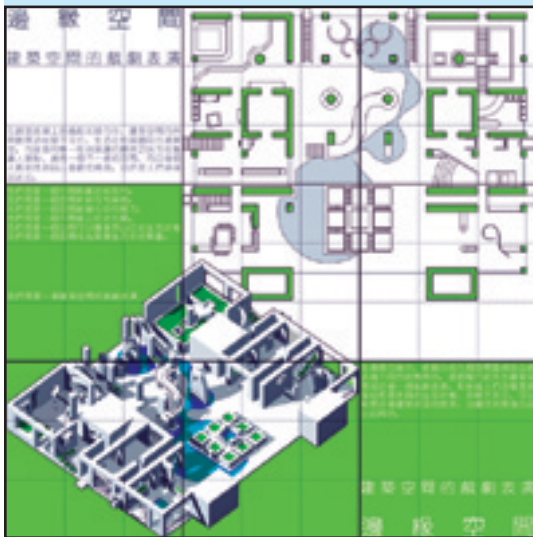
With the rapid development of science and technology; networks, media and electronics have surpassed spatial constraints. Mankind views the outside world through a computer screen rather than a window. As the medium between humankind and their environment,

constructions should be able to interpret the changing process.

The design disposes of the necessity for walls, making the whole space an integral and continuous area without any boundary line. The unroofed central part of the space contains sunshine, plants, insects and fresh air; a 'natural human' area; the fringes are given over to a network information space, figuring an 'information forest' for the 'electron-

ic human', which can make a gallery, a café or even a supermarket.

Defined as two distinct spaces, a boundary between the two consists of doors of mirrors and glass. The reflections are reproduced repetitively when the doors are opened. The complexity and uncertainty created by the reflections is intended to express the thinking of the meaning of existence and method of architecture, in the era of information.



Second Prize: Medium Space — Creating a Place for Communication Designers - Li Xiaoming, Han Wenqiang

The design uses the concepts of fluidity, instability and interstices to create a medium space between the higher and lower floors of a building. It is a bold statement and a strong indictment of "monotonous" space.

Second Prize: Drama Staged in the Architectural World Designer - Chen Zhuo

In this design, nine spaces create a drama of different roles of life, staging human beings' most superficial and intrinsic habits of daily life. Stepping inside, one can feel the various senses interpreted by each part, and then find the fitful role among them.



Woodblock Artists Feel the Pulse of the Era

By Zhao Pu

A printmaking exhibition currently underway at Red Gate Gallery attempts to illustrate the sensitive shift of Chinese contemporary printmaking in response to changes in social and cultural values.

The exhibition features eight young artists - Tan Ping and Yang Yue, together with their six students. Their works provide a showcase for contemporary Chinese printmaking, and inspiration for the development of the art in the new millennium. Printmaking in China has registered a series of solid achievements over the past decade, and works by recently graduated young printmaker artists exhibit a striking vitality.

Commenting on these printmakers, Wu Changjiang, Dean of the Printmaking Department at the Central Academy of Fine Arts says, "The works of many young contemporary printmakers seem to pay less attention to a crudely realistic and literal narrative function and instead represent a move away from reflecting main-



The Footprints in the Air
Printmaking by Zhang Wan

stream and mundane social values."

"In reality, they have shifted their focus from specifically 'artistic' themes and narratives to personal experience and spiritual connotation, expressing the intellectual reflection of the artist on the rapid changes in economic, cultural and value concepts in this period of rapid social transformation," concluded Wu.

The exhibition presents the works of teachers and students who are not only of the same age but who also share aesthetic ideals, and so can also be regarded as the work of a group of colleagues.

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwen District, Beijing
When: March 2002
Tel: 6525 1005



美奥保洁

营造现代人的清新生活空间

愿我们诚实守信精益求精的"美奥人"为您营造出清新美好的生活空间。装备精良的专业进口设备，高水平、规范化的优质服务队伍

家居保洁

家庭开荒：新居入住前的清理、除垢、灭菌、清洗及去污。

家庭定期、不定期除尘除垢、去污、清斑迹、厨房、卫生间及各种地面的养护、打蜡、翻新。

商业保洁

面向机关、饭店、写字楼、商厦、医疗机构、社区、超市等大型物业，提供长期、定期的保洁清洗服务。

地毯清洗

各种地毯的清洗去斑及养护

Wish we were honest and faithful. Meiao man seeking for greater perfection gives you delightfully fresh living space.

Professional import facilities with excellent kit, high quality service staffs with high level and standardization.

House keeping:

Cleaning defecating sterilizing for new residence.

Floor maintaining, face-lifting polishing in kitchen and toilet.

Commercial preserves:

Service for offices, hotels, business buildings, hospitals communities, super markets, etc.

Carpet cleaning:

Cleaning and maintenance for all kinds of carpet.



Dance Festival Targets Young Fans

By Zhu Lin

The Fourth China Modern Dance Festival kicks off in April, with two months of creative dance programs aimed at inspiring young people's passion for modern performing arts.

As part of the festival, Beijing Modern Dance Company will give performances in eight colleges in the capital from April 8 to 23. Artistic director Willy Tsao will give lectures to the students about the culture of modern dance.

Local and international programs include Folkwang Tanzstudio, a German dance company that will perform two pieces named Emerging and Solo. Expressions Dance Company from Australia will present their distinctive Alone Together and Jigsaw. The

Hell of Desire, performed by Beijing Modern Dance Company, will show young choreographer Cui Kai's interpretation of desire in life.

Six college dance organizations from Beijing, Guangxi and Tianjin will also join the festival, performing from May 24 to 27.

Rehearsal of The Hell of Desire
Photo by Zhuang Jian

By Shi Xinyu

Movie star Xu Jinglei is enjoying her moment in this dry and windy spring as the recipient of the first Individual Film Producing License, issued by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television. Xu will not only play the lead role in the movie *Daddy and I*, due to start filming soon, but also produce and distribute the movie herself with her own private investment.

Before February 1 this year, the right of producing films in China was still firmly held by officially licensed film studios. When individuals wanted to invest in or produce a film, they had to cooperate with a film studio or at least make the film under the trademark of a studio.

Xu's good luck is the result of a recent revision of the policy by the administration. According to the new policy, anyone may now produce and distribute a film providing they obtain an Individual Film Producing License. The move breaks the monopoly held by the film studios and allows private investors to produce films independently.

"The aim of the new policy is to encourage non-state-owned enterprises to invest in the film industry," says Zhou Jiandong, vice-head of the administration's Film Bureau.

Independent Films Get Thumbs-up



Xu Jinglei

So far, three applications for independent film making licenses have been lodged. Xu's is the first company to pass scrutiny for both the project's screenplay and the company's financial capacity.

As the first to benefit from the change, Xu is excited. "It is very significant, not only for me, but for the whole Chinese film industry. Although *Daddy and I* is just a low-budget film, the fact that it is an independent production has attracted many young professionals to join in."

Many young directors share Xu's enthusiasm. Lu Chuan, a director whose first work, *The Missing Gun*, has recently brought him into the spotlight, believes that the new policy will bring new directors more opportunities. "To relax the controls on film producing will give us more space to survive in," Lu says, "Because more capital can be invested into films via more channels."

However some have voiced concern that the new policy is more show than substance. "The existing censorship of screenplays and films should be the root of the film-producing right," Cui Zi'en, a professor at the Beijing Film Academy says. "The new license system can help, but it is not a substantial enough change."

Voice Wanted!

By Shi Xinyu

E Band is a group with a contract, but no singer.

"Warner Music has been advertising since March 25," says Yan Yue, the band's producer. "It is urgent, because everything, except the voice, is ready to go for E Band's new disc, which was to be recorded in April."

Signed by Warner Music this February, E Band was established in 1998 by a group of musicians who began their rock-and-roll lives in the early 1990s. Since the departure of former singer Dou Wei over "musical differences" with the other band members, which released two discs in 1999, the band have been without a fixed singer.

The current line-up have turned their backs on rock and roll in favor of electronic music, in a quest for a more modern sound.

"The band's new style is sure to be a hit," says Yan, "and Warner Music also believes it will be a commercial success for them. All we need now is a voice to match the new sound."



E Band's former singer Dou Wei
Photo provided by Shan Xiaogang

北京青年报
BEIJING TODAY
今日北京

房地产版(英文版)
让我们和太阳一起升起

《北京青年报 房地产版(英文版)》是《北京青年报》每周五推出的房地产及相关的广告专版,其英文版随报发行媒体优势不言而喻。根据房产客户的需求,让公司决策层直接阅读到相关内容,更具针对性,力爭使客户的广告效力发挥至最大!

Real Estate Edition in English of Beijing Youth Daily, which is pressed every Friday, is a new advertising special one for the real estate and relative industries. The English Edition is delivered with the newspaper so the media advantage is very obvious. Real Estate Edition in English of Beijing Youth Daily, aiming at the advertiser's requests for the more pertinence, let the policy-makers read the relative content directly and try to reach the most advertisement effectiveness

HOT TEL:13910419797 84014823

WARWICK INTERNATIONAL
APARTMENTS

Were we do our job... So you can do yours.

Special recommended villa at Lido are
\$6000/29spm/3br/fully furnished
TEL:(010)67151166 ext.3005/3006

NWD (Hotels Investments) Limited
Beijing Kiu Lok Property Management Services Co Ltd

Member of the Hong Kong Listed New World Group invites high-calibre applications for the post of Leasing Executives:

Applications must possess:

- University degree
- presentable appearance
- excellent inter-personal and negotiation skill
- outgoing and aggressive personality
- fluency of spoken English and Putonghua
- sound sales / marketing experience and record
- corporate client connections a definite advantage

We offer attractive basic salary, commission and excellent career prospect. Please send both English and Chinese resume (with employment history, academic qualification, present and expected salary) together with a recent photo to The Sales

中国人寿大厦
CHINA LIFE TOWER

租售热线:
Enquiry hotline:
65886868

Developer:
Beijing Zhong Baixin Real Estate development Ltd

Designer:
RTKL Company

Dart Foreign Affairs Management Office

*Yard architecture with European style

*sufficient parking space, convenient traffic, complete facilities and offering service around the day

****Dart Commerce Office**

1. it is located between CBD center and Guomao
2. favourable price: RMB3-4 yuan/squaremeter/day
3. telephone number: 65032597 or 64951817

****Dart Commerce Garden**

1. it is located in the New Olympic sphere and it is between foreign account office and the Chinese-Japanese Hospital
2. favourable price: RMB 2.8-3.5 yuan/squaremeter/day
3. telephone number: 65032097 or 65032598

My company also has open separate foreign office building with 15000 square meter to be sold (including property right). It is located in north-eastern corner of Siyuan Bridge.

赛特饭店 SCITECH HOTEL
BUSINESS FLOOR ON LINE

Business Floor Standard Room: USD98+15%SC
Business Floor Suite: USD138+15%SC
Business Floor Duplex Suite: USD300+15%SC

Express check in & check out Free use 3DDS Internet Lines

One free buffet in Coffee Shop per day Daily newspaper & Magazine Free use

swimming pool, GYM and sauna Free income taxes

Daily happy hours: (17:30-18:30) Welcome amenities on arrival

One piece free pressing per day

ADD: No. 22 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing 10004 P.R. China

Tel: 8610-65123388

Fax: 8610-65123542

E-mail: sthotel@w.com.cn

保罗大厦

◇ To South of Lan Dao building, it's new building

◇ Area: 3500m²-4000m², 430spm/per floor

◇ This building is available to Bank, Negotiable Securities, Business Center, restaurant etc.

◇ 24 hours security & hot water

Tel: 65958081 65958060

Mobil: 13701350511 13910890956

Add: No. 38 Chao Wai Avenue Chao Yang district Beijing

北京市国宾大厦
BEIJING AMBASSADOR MANSION
Ambassador Mansion Good News!

Newly decorated apartments and offices Apartment styles Available!

Range from 1 bedroom to 4 bedroom
USD1000/month up

Office Styles
Nex area from 20m²-1600m²

Ambassador Mansion is an excellent choice for your business or life For more information

Call us at 010-64384093 or fax on 010-64380148

龙潭涉外公寓
LONGTAN APARTMENTS

from \$500/month. 34-110 sq.m (studio, 1-2 bedrooms)

- Fully furnished with satellite TV, IDD appliances.
- 24 hour hot water, security, plentiful parking
- near the Temple of Heaven, Chongwen District

call now for more details.

67115358 67128749

City Plaza (Phase) And Palace International

Address: 3A, Shi Lipu, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China

Transportation: conveniently close to Chaoyang Road, Jingtong Express Way, and Ciyunsi Bridge of the 4th Ring Road

Services: Receptionist (Lobby), Tickets, Room Service, Home Maid, Room Cleaning, Home Appliance Repairs, and Flowers.

Rental Returns: USD900.00-2200 per month

Current Occupation Rate: Offices: 100% Department 95.7%

Business Tax: 0.4%

Management Fees: Palace International: RMB800 per square meter per month for Cleaning, Security (in-door and out-door), Vegetation, Elevators, Elevators, Minor Repairs, Room.

HOT TEL: 65561798

Sunflower Tower 盛福大厦

Investors: Philipp Holzmann Anlagen GmbH

Location: No. 37, Maizidian Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing Next to the Liang Ma Hotel. Located at the East 3rd Ring Road

Area: 817 square meters (based on architectural area) on 24th Floor

Asking rent: USD28/month/sqm (gross including management)

Communication: Supplied nodes IDD lines and 4MB of Capacity

ISDN is available

Elevator: 10 KONE elevators HVAC System: Four-pipe system

Amenities: Business center, Exhibition facilities, Retail space

Existing Tenants: Walt Disney, BASY, KONE, E-turtle Nex work

Tel: 85275696-608

寻求合作

本公司欲求东二环、东三环附近写字楼式办公楼进行合作。要求: 手续合法, 价格合理, 中介免谈, 真心合作者请来电: **64055786**

this newspaper's perennial legal adviser: Beijing jingtai law office **undertaking mostly:**

1. real estate business that buy, rent and manage kinds of licences in Beijing;
2. foreign cases, maritime, finance, bond, important and difficult affairs;
3. debt, economy contract, foreign marriage cases, criminal defense;
4. notarizations;
5. holding perennial legal advisers for foreign enterprises, providing legal assistance;
6. providing law, regulations and contract versions in any languages.

TEL: 86-10-83521218 FAX: 86-10-83525557

http://www.venus-law.com e-mail: jt@venus-law.com



Eagle kite made by Zhang Zexi

Now Beijing's real spring is around the corner, sidewalks and parks are filled with men, women and children from all walks of life brightening the skies with a multitude of multicolored kites. Why not share in the inspiration and excitement of the kite season?

Soar into Spring

Ancient Flight

By Li Dan

The history of kites (Feng Zheng in Chinese) in China can be traced back 2,000 years to the Han Dynasty, when military official Han Xin is said to have used kites in land surveying. Emperor Liangwu in the Five Dynasties Period (A.D. 907-923) tried and failed to use a kite to send letters.

In the Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618-907) a military official used a kite to signal for help when surrounded by enemies; he was finally rescued.

Kites gradually became accepted as toys rather than items of military equipment during the Tang Dynasty. By the Song Dynasty (A.D. 960-1279) there were already various kinds of kites closely related to people's daily life. The kite's popularity is said to have reached its high point in the Qing Dynasty, and visitors to the Forbidden City can still see three huge kites that were favorites of the last Emperor, Pu Yi. In *Dream of The Red Chamber* (Hong Lou Meng 红楼梦), written in the mid-18th century during the Qing Dynasty, Cao Xueqin described vividly how the daughters of court officials and their servants in Da Guan Yuan (大观园) played with various kinds of kites every day.

The Chinese kite began its journey around the world in the 12th century, going first to North Korea, then to Japan, Malaysia, Europe and North America. The aerodynamic principles of the kite showed the way in developing aircraft - in the hall of National Air and Space Museum in Washington hangs a huge Chinese kite, recording the earliest aircraft in human history was a Chinese kite carrying a torch signal.



Picture by Xie Feng



Shayan (swallow) kite made by Zhang Zexi

Kiting Tricks

When you see children busy running here and there trying to get their kite airborne, while an old man sits quietly with his kite flying higher than anyone else's, you will understand that kite-flying needs special skills. First of all, though, you need a good-quality kite.

How to choose a good kite

Zhang Zexi (a.k.a. Fengzheng, "Kite", Zhang 张泽玺) has loved kites since childhood. After 20 years making them himself, Zhang has invented his own style of kite framework and design. He has won many awards in flying competitions. Zhang shared some kite-shopping tips

with Beijing Today:

"There are two ways of judging whether a kite is good or not - appearance and practical value. A real kite should meet both standards, being beautiful and able to fly very high. To tell the truth, 80% of kites in Beijing's shopping malls, folk markets or street stands cannot fly really high, especially the ones on the expensive counters in shopping malls. Most of them are for display and decoration.

"You cannot try the kite in shopping malls, but you should also never believe a street stand owner's flying exhibition, as he has already secretly added a long tail to the kite or put something heavy in the lighter side.

"You cannot simply judge the real quality of a kite from the price. Generally speaking, broad and solid kites are easy to fly high. Then follows the hard-wing kite, such as the Beijing Swallow kite (Sha Yan).

The soft-wing kite is a little hard to deal with. There are many of these kites in the market, all with dazzling shapes and colors. It would be better to take a soft-wing kite home as a wall decoration."

Where and when to fly

Pay close attention to the weather forecast in advance. Sunny weather with force 2-3 wind is the most suitable. Choose a wide and level place without any tall buildings around. Beginners should keep far away from rivers, lakes or ponds, as once the kite is touched by water it is useless.

Where to buy your kite

Hong Qiao Market (红桥市场, recommended by Kite Zhang), Tiantan-donglu, Chongwen District, opposite of east gate of The Temple of Heaven, Tel: 67133354.

Huasheng Tianqiao Folk Culture Market (华声天桥民俗市场, recommended by Kite Zhang), west side of Panjiayuan Flea Market. Turn left out of west gate of Panjiayuan Flea Market, walk to the end of the road and Tianqiao Market is to your right.

Panjiayuan Flea Market (潘家园旧货市场), beside east southern Third Ring Road, Chaoyang District. Time: 9am-5pm.



A kite stand in Hong Qiao Market

Photo by Chen Shuyi

Yabaolu Market (雅宝路市场), A 16 Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District, 65993523.

Stores at the end of the Silk Market

Main shopping malls in Beijing.

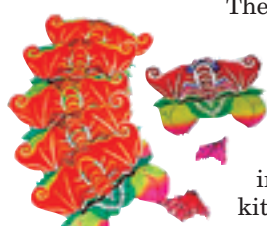
Kite Zhang, if you believe your Chinese, you can contact 68363725 for the genuine folk handmade kite and kite-making skills.



Hard-wing



Soft-wing



String-like



Box



Board



Western style

Kite Types

Chinese kites can be divided into five categories, hard-wing, soft-wing, board, string-like and box. The first step of making a kite is to build the kite frame, usually using a slim bamboo tube.

Just as the names imply, a "hard-wing" kite means the two wings are all framed with bamboo; while the "soft-wing" kite only has one side of the wing framed by bamboo, leaving the wing floating freely when flying.

The "string-like" kite consists of several small kites along a single thread - the Chinese dragon and centipede kites are the best known of this kind.

Board kite often comes in the form of Chinese animals.

The "box" style features palace lanterns, wine bottles and airplanes.

Chinese kites usually represent animals or figures from ancient Chinese stories and legends, whereas European and American kites usually come in simple geometrical forms.

Notice:

Since 1985, each year at the beginning of April, International Kite Federation holds the International Kite Tournament in Wei Fang (潍坊) - the Kite Capital of the world in Shandong Province.

Business Service 商务服务

PRE-MEDIA

PRE-MEDIA

北京旁美广告有限公司独家代理“商务服务”专版广告。我们的宗旨是为国内的商务服务及代理机构能够和外商公平、合理地开展合作,从中起到桥梁和纽带的作用。

BEIJING PRE-MEDIA Advertising Co.,Ltd. is the exclusive advertising agency of the Business Service page of《Beijing Today》. We will play the bridge on the cooperation between business service company of our country and foreign business.

AD PLACE (广告内容)

- ◆涉外代理工商注册、税务服务、商标、专利等代理注册事宜
Business surrogate relate to foreigner, enterprise registration, tax service, trademark, patent and copyright registration, etc.
- ◆商务培训、合作
Business training and cooperation
- ◆国际交通运输
International transport
- ◆技术、文化交流
Technique and culture communication
- ◆国际招商、投资、融资
International investigation and financing
- ◆商务咨询、顾问、公关、代理
commercial consultation, public relationship and surrogate
- ◆商务办公会议、商务旅游
Business meeting, office and business tour
- ◆商务办公设备
Office equipment

广告刊登电话 AD.PLACE.TEL: (86)010-88552079/80 13601226884

AD.E-mail: premedia@263.net

BUSINESS AGENT



北京市商标事务所
BEIJING TRADEMARK AGENCY

TEL: 68083066 68081369
FAX: 68081370
地址: 北京市西城区月坛北街2号
月坛大厦6层
16th Floor Yue tan Tower
No.2 Yue Tan North Street
Xicheng District Beijing

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A Five-year-old Advertising company

Possess of certain marketing resource, plan to invest exhibition, design & produce. Now looking for foreign capital to joint venture and cooperation.

Aim

- ◆Introducing advantage experiences and technologies from design and produce of overseas exhibitions.
 - ◆Introducing trademark, administration and marketing promotion from overseas exhibitions vocation.
 - ◆Introducing certain quantity capital to enlarge scale.
- Welcome to connect to us.

Tel: 13701378266

Huiyuan Apartments

ready to rent

With high, medium and economy standard.

Broadband multi-media e-commerce net service in each flat.

Welcome your visit.

Tel: 64923528/64923529
64992660/64910545



Let us help you to extend your visa or change visa status
Tel: 65674187
Mobile: 13001039008 13910101133
(San Ze Synthesize Trading)
三泽综合商社

北京工商事务咨询服务中心

BEIJING CONSULTING SERVICE CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS

业务范围: 承办国内外企业登记注册代理业务、外国企业常驻代表机构审批、登记注册的代理业务。

The center handles applications for enterprise and foreign enterprise permanent office in Beijing registration.

地址: 北京市海淀区三里河1号西苑饭店7号楼107-109室
RM107-109, NO.7 XIYUAN HOTEL, NO.1 SANLIHE LULU, HAI DIAN, BEIJING.
电话: 68313388 转 57107-57109 88371521 传真: 68342761 联系人: 调研、孙霞、任民

PRE-MEDIA

Beijing PRE-MEDIA Advertising Company

A well-known professional company
We provide following services:

- ★ Market strategy, promotion and design, Boutique agency
- ★ Advertisement Management of plane Media, TV advertisement
- ★ Buying Representative

Quality service obtain honour welcome to consultation

TEL: 88552081

FAX: 88552079

MOBILE: 13601226884

E-mail: pieere@sina.com

Konica 高品质 数字化复印机 Konica 7045



主要性能:
*复印/打印速度: 45 张/分
*600×600dpi 输入和输出
*图形用户界面
*首次复印输出时间: 3.9 秒
*预热时间: 少于 90 秒
*32MB 标准存储器 E-RDH

KEY FEATURES:

- > 45 cpm/ppm
- > 600×600 dpi for Input & Output
- > Graphic User Interface
- > FCOT: 3.9 Seconds
- > WUT: Less than 90 Seconds
- > 32MB Standard Memory E-RDH

BEIJING ZHONGQING KONICA PRODUCTS AGENT CO., LTD

Tel: 63465432 63464797 MP: 13901151799 维修热线: 63448206 Post: 100054
Add: Room 3A407, Pengrun Jiayuan (鹏润家园), Caibuying Cloverleaf Junction, Fengtai District, Beijing, China

A Tale of Two City Centers

By Wang Dandan
Shanghai success story

Every 12 days, a 30-storey building is completed in the Shanghai finance and trade zone of Lujiazui in Shanghai Pudong New Area since it opened in 1990.

More than 550 buildings have been built in Lujiazui, with 336 in use.

With a total 13.5 billion yuan of investment, 10 projects will begin construction in a new 850 million square meter area.

Singapore Investment has spent US\$ 4.2 million buying 70,000 square meters of in Lujiazui land for office building construction.

The world's tallest building: the Global Finance Center, will also begin construction this year. The headquarters of Shanghai Bank, five-star hotels, Tangchen Seascape Apartments and another four projects will start in the near future.

The extended Shangri-la project, office buildings backed by Singapore Investment and Shanghai Dolphinarium just had contracts signed.

Lujiazui specialty

As the only national development zone specializing in finance and trade, Lujiazui dedicates more than 28 square kilometers to finance, trade, commerce and real estate.

Lujiazui's edge is finance and



trade, says Hu. More than 60 percent of foreign finance property in China is in Pudong.

There are 179 financial organizations and 49 foreign banks in Lujiazui. The headquarters of 28 international, 34 domestic and 80 joint-venture companies are gathered in the area.

Lujiazui functions as five groups: international banking, foreign and domestic trade, headquarters of international companies, tourism and luxury

apartments.

Lujiazui will also try to attract another 180-200 foreign and domestic organizations within five years, said Chen Wei, deputy director of development at the Pudong New Area Trade and Finance Bureau.

Meanwhile back home

Beijing Central Business District was established in 1994, four years after Shanghai, said Yang Shanhua, spokesman of Beijing

CBD office. It's not all up and running yet, with the only projects the Beijing Fortune Center and the third phase of the China World Trade Center.

But there are other projects approved including Beijing Television Center, International New Town, Soho New Town and Yihe International Center.

Statistics confirm that the Beijing central business district trails behind Shanghai in finance and trade. Beijing's district is 24 square kilometers smaller than Shanghai's 28 square kilometers.

There are 43 office buildings, apartments and hotels in the 7-million-square-meter area, with 92 global 500 companies including Motorola, Hewlett-Packard, Ford and Samsung in the area.

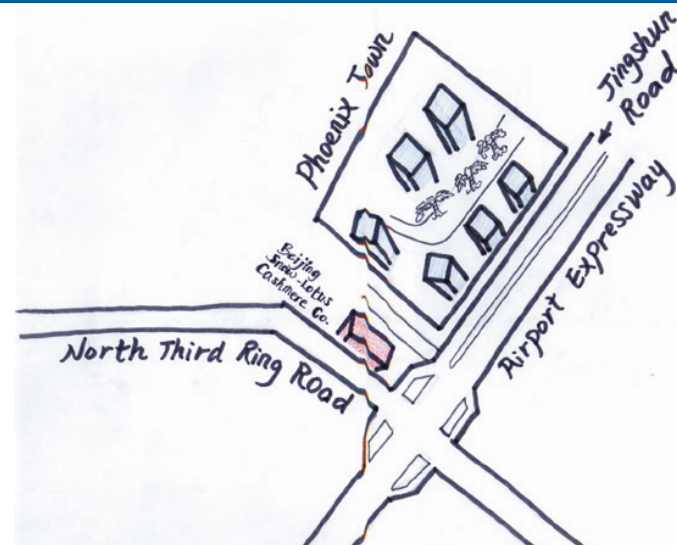
No need to compete

Beijing does challenge Shanghai, said Chen Wei. He sees no need for such competition between the two sides.

He suggests New York and Washington as examples of economic and political centers. Both enjoy their own advantages.

Shanghai doesn't need a "silicon valley" and Beijing does not have to compete very much in terms of finance and trade with Shanghai.

But regardless of their separate futures, both Beijing and Shanghai will continue to compete in attracting foreign investment and companies.



Picture by Jiang Zhong

Toil and Trouble in Phoenix Town

By Wang Dandan

The developer says he is addressing all his buyers' concerns in good faith. The first residents of Phoenix Town say they will believe it when they see it. But whatever anyone believes or says in this case, it seems fair to say the foreign-approved residential area near the Third Ring Road has enjoyed a troubled history.

Before being handed their keys, buyers of the first phase demanded a meeting with the developer. They all met on March 15. The issues that arose are an object lesson in paying attention to the fine detail of new apartment contract.

True colors

Some buyers loathed the orange-red-blue-gray building exterior, saying it was out of harmony with the environment. After negotiations, the developer promised to proffer two plans for buyers to choose a different color. The buyers agreed.

Poplars popular

At time of purchase, buyers say the salesperson promised 20,000 square meters of white poplars. Today, there are 20 -30 standing between the two buildings.

"I will plant more trees," Phoenix Town Project Manager Lin Cheng told *Beijing Today*, "but the quantity will not be 20,000 square meters." The whole project was not completed yet, he said.

Only the first phase was finished. "As the second and third or even a fourth phase were all completed, there will be green space of more than 20,000 square meters," Lin used the word "green space," not "white poplar".

Buyers say they were promised municipal heating, but instead got the more expensive communal boiler.

But the buyers have no written record of the promise and the annual heating cost has risen 6 yuan a square meter. "There might be a misunderstanding between the two sides," said Lin. "Some salesmen were not very clear about the fact, which resulted in misleading purchasers."

The road beside Phoenix Town was supposed to be their own private road, say the buyers. But now



Photo by Li Shuzhuan

the buyers say they have learned that before the project even started, the road was planned for general public use. That road now runs alongside Phoenix Town.

But Lin says this road be fenced off from the community after the project is completed. But there will also be private roads within the residential area (see map). The developer says he didn't change the road plan or break the contract.

Developer improvements

The developer enlarged the windows of each apartment for a significant expense. The developer also upgraded cabinet doors to a higher standard. The developer has negotiated with Zhonghai Property Management to minimize the management charge from 3.46 yuan per square meter per month to 3 yuan.

The developer also provided all property management fees for the first year after purchase. The developer has installed a satellite TV decoding machine in each apartment. The developer believes these gesture go a long way toward demonstrating good faith.

From legal angle

When buying a new apartment, Xu Chendi of Zhongsheng Law Firm says it is important to include in the contract everything promised by the salesperson.

"Even if there is disagreement between the purchaser and developer," says Xu, "the best solution is to negotiate in a peaceful way."

"Of course it would be better if there was no discussion at all and all buyers might move smoothly into their new apartments."

Who Handles Property Rights Certificate?

By Hydie Wang

Dear editor:

I've decided to purchase an apartment. However, when I was about to sign the contract and required the developer to handle the property rights certificate of the apartment I've chosen within a year, the salesman was reluctant to make a promise. To better understand the responsibility, could you tell me who should handle the certificate procedures?

Regards Tom

Dear Tom:

According to the relevant rules, it is the purchaser who should go through the procedures of the property rights certificate. The developer can only serve as an assistant.

But the developer should provide relevant documents required by Beijing Real Estate Bureau to help you to get the certificate. If the developer failed to provide such documents, you have the right to reject the apartment and get the deposit back.



Pictures by Xie Feng

Apartment Prices

Luxury

Lido Courts

Rent: USD 2,200-9,000

Description: Complex includes Holiday Inn Lido Hotel, service and non-service apartments (newly renovated) and offices.

With 364 units in total, ranging from Studio to 5 beds, around 68-356 gross square meter.

Location: Chaoyang district. Close to Airport Expressway.

Facilities: Country Club, International Schools, Drugstore, Starbucks, Deli and Post Office.

Ascott

Rent: USD 2,800-13,500

Description: Another brand new, fully furnished serviced apartment, range from 1 bed to 4 beds (Penthouse), with gross sqm range from 75-289 square meters.

Location: Chaoyang district. Opposite to China World Hotel, and next to Hewlett-Packard & Motorola Buildings.

Facilities: Residents' lounge, fitness center, children's playroom, indoor heated swimming pool, sauna and steam rooms, Jacuzzi, aerobics room, business center, restaurants and minimart.

Regular

East Gate Plaza

Rent: USD 2,450-8,300

Description: European style interior with open kitchens. Extensive indoor shopping plaza.

With 332 units in total, 2 beds-4 beds, 135-319 gross square meters.

Location: Dongcheng district. Close to Second Ring Road.

Facilities: Health club, sauna, swimming pool, supermarket, shopping center, bank and post office.

Landmark Towers

Rent: USD 1,350 - 4,900

Description: Within the complex is a small shopping arcade. All are service apartments with hotel style accommodations. 248 units in total, 1-3 beds, 42-153 net square meters.

Location: Chaoyang district. Near Lufthansa Shopping Center.

Facilities: Health club, swimming pool, tennis court, restaurants, bank, supermarket and playground.

Economy

Ju Long

Rent: USD 1,000- 5,000

Description: Villas and apartments available. 398 units, 1-4 beds, 105-347 square meters.

Location: Chaoyang district. Near Worker's Stadium and Swissotel.

Facilities: Sauna, health club, billiards, table tennis, restaurants, function room and conference.

Warwick International

Rent: USD 700-1,600

Description: Service apartment with large windows and open kitchen. Situated in a courtyard setting. Convenient outdoor parking. With 152 units, 34-78 net square meters, studio to 2 beds.

Location: Chongwen district. Near Second Ring Road.

Facilities: Gym, coffee shop, and picnic area.

Jing An Center:

Rent: US\$23-27/month/sqm

Location: Zuoqiazhuang, Chaoyang District. It is close to Beijing International Exhibition Center, Royal Hotel and Carrefour Supermarket.

The above information is for reference only and provided by DTZ Debenham Tie Leung. For further information, please go to www.dtz.com or www.dtz.bj.cn, or residential@dtz.bj.cn



Target: Beijing Landmark Hotel
When: 5pm-6pm, Tuesday, Mar 26th
Hotel Detective: Li Dan

Firja Ryikonen, Finland

I feel very comfortable living here. Everything is perfect and I especially like the cozy room atmosphere during the night. They have nearly 10 lamps in each room, wherever you feel it's needed.

Beate Ordnung, Germany

This is a very nice hotel with a golden location and high quality service. It's very convenient for me because I work in the Landmark Office building.

I love the breakfast especially. From what I hear, many other hotels don't provide free breakfast, but here I'm not afraid of paying 150 yuan again for my breakfast.

Johnson Wong, Hong Kong

I prefer the Chinese-style decoration in the lobby, and especially the traditional Chinese tea tables in the lounge. Of the famous 5-star hotels like the Great Wall and Kunlun, here for me is much more amiable. Very clean and quiet.

Studio Apartments Come to Capital

By Wang Dandan

Studio apartments with one room in each unit were introduced to the Beijing real estate market early this year.

Target clients

They aim at small companies with no more than 10 workers, mostly engaged in advertising, trade, consultancy and the Internet: creative thinkers.

Studio and soho

Small Office Home Office (SOHO) has large storage capacity and can be personally designed by its owner, says artist-turned-architect Ai Weiwei.

A studio is a little different. It's three in one: commercial surroundings, office and home.

Simple, luxury studios

A simple studio project usually locates near the Third Ring Road and sell at less than 250,000 yuan for about 40 square meters. Clubs, swimming pool, living facilities,

satellite television, pure water and broadband are a must for the simple studio.

A luxury studio is more, much more. On top of the basics mentioned above, a luxury studio supplies more commercial services. A 60-square-meter studio costs about 500,000 yuan, with full decoration and some office equipment.

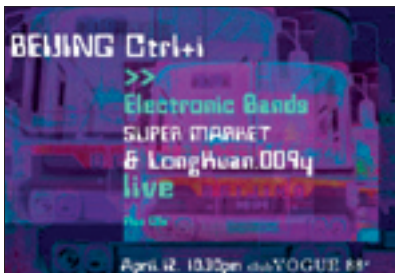
The project should also provide shared services such as lawyers, accounting clerks and secretaries. It will also offer all the residential service. A special information area is also allocated in a community space.

A simple studio emphasizes living standards, while a luxury studio lean toward more investment and feedback.

Century Star, a simple studio project, and Euro Classic, a luxury studio project will be completed in July 2003.

"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? With what can we help you? Our e-mail: housing@ynet.com Tel:6590-2522 Fax: 6590-2525

Music & Bars

**Beijing Ctrl+i - Electronic Bands**

Super Market & Long Kuan live show, DJs till late.

Where: Club Vogue 88#, Dongzhongjie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang District. **When:** April 12, from 10:30pm. **Tel:** 13910062444.

Live Bars

Live performance by 'Hippy Cat' and 'Smile', Get Lucky Bar, 64299019, March 29, 8 pm. 'Radiation', Schiller's 3, 65931078, March 29, 9 pm. Blues and pop from 'Swing Fish', Durty Nellies Irish Pub, 65022808, March 30, 9 pm.

Hiking

Where: Footpath east of the Ming Tombs, Huairou County, north of Beijing.

When: March 30.

Walking time: three hours.

Pick up: 8:30am at the Lido outside Starbucks, 9am at Capital Paradise's main gate.

Return: 4-5pm.

Cost: 150 yuan per adult, 100 yuan per child under 12.

How to join: bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk and 13701003694.

Exhibitions



Painting by Yang Mingyi

The Images of Ideas

Ten artists, including Zhao Liang, Wang Guofeng and Liao Bangming.

Where: Shangri-la Art Gallery, Feijiacun, Zuizehuang, Chaoyang District. **When:** March 30 - April 5. **Tel:** 64364785

The Spring of South China

By Yang Mingyi. Born in 1943, graduated from Central Academy of Fine Arts, Yang's works have been exhibited many times at home and abroad.

Where: Melodic Art Gallery, 14 Jianwaidajie, opposite the Beijing Friendship Store. **When:** April 1-30, 9am-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65158123.

A German in China

By Nadono Hana, a German artist born in 1960. She has painted in Germany for 20 years. Her style is European but also manifests concerns about daily Chinese life.

Where: Han Mo Gallery. **When:** till May 4, Tue-Fri, noon-8pm; Sat-Sun, 11am-9pm. **Tel:** 64166254.

Weather

Friday March 29 Cloudy to overcast
Max: 15C. Min: 5C.

Saturday March 30 Cloudy to clear
Max: 22C. Min: 6C.

Sunday March 31 Clear to cloudy
Max: 16C. Min: 5C.

Monday April 1 Cloudy
Max: 23C. Min: 6C.

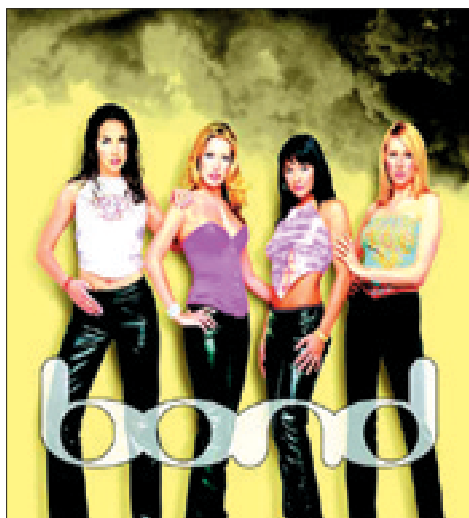
Tuesday April 2 Clear to cloudy
Max: 19C. Min: 7C.

Wednesday April 3 Cloudy to overcast, light rain
Max: 17C. Min: 4C.

Thursday April 4 Overcast, light rain
Max: 15C. Min: 5C.

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 65902520. By Priscilla / Lydia

Concerts

**Fit Fiddlers from Britain**

The band comprises four members, Haylie Ecker, Eos, Gay-Yee Westeroff and Tania Davis. Their debut album, Born, went gold all across Europe.

Where: Worker's Stadium, Sanlitun, Chaoyang District. **When:** April 5, 7:30pm. **Tel:** 65016655.



Sports & Health

Beijing Hash House Harriers - A Drinking Club with a Running Problem

Hash NR 999A 30 March at the Great Wall (Huanghuacheng)

Hairs: Alexander and Artsy

This is a Great Wall run & camping trip. Saturday: bus to the destination, hash on Saturday and bus back (optional camping on Saturday night).

Gather at 10:30am, leave at 11am from Mexican Wave, 150 meters north from the Guiyou Department Store. Stop off at Worker's Stadium to pick up members. Lunch at location at Great Wall (on own account) 2 hour run/walk at and around Great Wall. Dinner on location at Great Wall (BBQ trout). Arrive back at Mexican Wave around 9pm. Bring warm clothes.

When: Saturday, March 30.

Fee: 100 yuan before March 27, 120 yuan on the day (camp costs are extra for extra meals and transportation back).

Doctor's Talk

Vaccinations - what do you need? Emergency situation - what to do? Local medical facilities - how good are they? Each month, SOS holds a free informative session on medical issues pertinent to healthy living and travelling in China. Questions can be answered by an SOS doctor. Dr. Tom Van Den Bossche

**Holy Saturday Concert**

By International Festival Chorus & Orchestra. Conductor: Nicholas Smith. Soprano: Amanda Marie Osman. Alto: Zhang Yuan. Tenor: Li Bing. Bass: Ma Yi. Organ: Shen Yue. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Requiem in D Minor, K.626; William Byrd: Ave Verum Corpus; Gregorio Allegri: Miserere; Antonio Lotti: Crucifixus.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** March 30, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-280 yuan. **Tel:** 65598285.

Gateway to Music Series - World's Greatest Hits (in Chinese)

By Sound of Spring Chorus. Conductor: Qiu Li. Program: Summer Nights in Venice, The Blue Danube, Home Sweet Home, and more.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall. **When:** March 31, 2pm. **Admission:** 10-60 yuan. **Tel:** 65598285.

Symphony Concert

By Beijing Symphony Orchestra. Conductor: Tan Lihua. Program: Wagner: Prelude to Tristan und Isolde; Richard Strauss: Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks; Shostakovich: Symphony No. 11 in G minor Op. 103.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall. **When:** March 31, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-380 yuan. **Tel:** 65598285.

Weekend Concert

By Central Musical and Dance Theater's folk music troupe.

Where: National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian District. **When:** March 30, 2:30pm. **Admission:** 10-30 yuan. **Tel:** 68485462.

Classical Waltz

By People's University Orchestra. Conductor: Jiang Xiongda.

Where: National Library Concert Hall. **When:** March 30, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 20-80 yuan. **Tel:** 68485462.

Where: Beijing International SOS Clinic, 2F Training Room, Building C, BITIC Leasing Center, 1 Xingfusanuncun Beilu, Chaoyang District. **When:** April 2, 6-7pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 64620555 ext.272

International Friendship Football Club

Men's, Women's and Youth Football every weekend. Anyone (from beginner to high level) is welcome to join a team; existing teams are also welcome to join.

Location is grass fields near Wangjing.

Fee: 100 yuan / 50 yuan for one-year season (for students and members). **Tel:** 62347106. **Web:** www.triggerfish.de/iffc. **Email:** iffc@263.net.cn

Live Football

Friday March 29 - Party night, 1:30pm, Asian football; 6:30pm, Spanish Primera Liga, Spanish League Highlights; 7:25pm, International friendly, England vs Italy; 9pm, English Premiership, Newcastle vs Everton Live. Saturday March 30 - Football tournament, 7:55pm, English Premiership, Leeds vs Manchester United live; 10:55pm, English Premiership match live; 1:35am Middlesbrough vs Tottenham Hotspur live.

Where: The Club Football Center. **Tel:** 64170497.

Activities

Chinese Culture Club White Pagoda Tour

Visit the Watchtower and old city walls to witness the downfall of their old neighbors. Take this last chance to see the local houses before they are gone forever.

Where: 1:50pm at the north side of Dongbianmen Watchtower (where is Red Gate Gallery located), tell the driver: Dong (1) Bian (4) Men (2), Chongwen District. **When:** March 30, Sat.2-3:30pm.

Lecture on bronze mirror at ancient dressing tables.

When: April 6, Sat.2-4:30 pm.

Learn to make traditional Chinese Kites from an old kite collector and maker.

When: April 7, Sun. 2:00-4:30 pm. **Tel:** 84622081/13501035145 (Feng Cheng) or visit www.chinesecultureclub.org.

Telecom, Media and Technology (TMT)

Media Event Topic: What will media in China look like in 2010? **When:** April 4th. **Participants:** Representatives from CNN, Sony Motion Pictures, City Weekend, and others.

Venture Capital Event Topic: How are VC's investing in China? **When:** April 11th. **Participants:** Representatives from Acer, Intel Capital, JAFCO, and Siemens (SMAC) **Both events:** Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Location: Kerry Center Hotel, Kowloon Ballroom. Entrance: 80 RMB / two drinks.

Movies

**Chinese Movie with English Subtitles**

Family Tree (Kao Shi Yi Jia Qin) Directed by A Gan, starring Song Dandan, 2000, 100 minutes. A comedy that looks and laughs at stresses in the lives of members of a family of typical Beijingers - father, mother and teenage son - who inhabit an apartment that is far too small to contain all of their dreams. It provides an intimate, not overly serious portrait of an ordinary Beijing family. The teenage son is under great pressure to pass his college entrance exams. His mother, who is starting to feel used up as she enters middle age, gets involved in a TV quiz show for which she has to memorize an enormous quantity of dance moves. Her laid-off husband is starting a new sales job - a make-it-or-break-it deal. The three of them find themselves in more and more impossible positions.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Conference Hall, Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Center, 1km east of the Kempinski Hotel. **When:** April 5, 8pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 64615318/9.

Italian Movie

Roma (Fellini's Roma, 1972)

Directed by Federico Fellini. Language: Italian with English subtitles. Acclaimed director Federico Fellini brilliantly demonstrates why he is regarded as "the last of the great epic filmmakers", delivering "a thrilling personal memoir" (Newsweek) with this monumental and outlandish tribute to his beloved Rome. This autobiography begins with Fellini as a

youngster living in the Italian countryside. In school he studies the eclectic but parochial history of ancient Rome and then is introduced as a young man to the real thing, arriving in this strange new city at the outbreak of World War Two. Here, he comes to grips with a boisterous, gaudy portrait of Rome.

Where: Cultural Office of Italian Embassy, 2 Sanlitun Dong'erjie. **When:** April 4, 7pm. **Tel:** 65322187.

French Movie - Le Dernier Metro (The Last Metro)

Directed by Francois Truffaut (1932-1984), 1980.

Where: Space for Imagination Coffee House, The Loft. **When:** March 30, 7pm (Coffee House), March 31, 3pm (The Loft). **Tel:** 62791280, 65065592.

**Kungfu Movie - The One**

Starring Li Lianjie (Jet Li), Delroy Lindo, Carla Gugino, etc.

When: March 26 - April 2. **Where:** China Cinema, 62254488-4299; Xindong'an Cinema, 65281988; Yingxie Cinema, 64207759; Stars Cinema, 64040602; Dizhi Cinema, 66171599; Shengli Cinema, 66175758.



Easter

**Easter Patisserie**

To celebrate Easter, the chef at the Grand Hyatt Patisserie has created a series of chocolate and marzipan figures of Easter eggs and bunnies. On Easter Sunday (March 31), you also can enjoy Easter brunch with seafood, Mediterranean dishes and much more for only RMB 188. Kids under 12 will receive free gifts of chef's chocolate/marzipan items.

Where: Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1 East Chang'an Avenue, bus 1, 4, 57 or subway to Wangfujing. **When:** Mar 31-Apr 2. **Tel:** 85181234. **Website:** www.hyatt.com

Painting Competition

Parents can accompany their children for the Easter egg painting contest. At noon, a family of three can enjoy the buffet in the Traders Cafe, 1F World Trade Center.

Where: China World Trade Center, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie.

Performance

Peking Opera

By Beijing Fenglei Opera Troupe. Jiu Jiang Kou.

When: March 30, 2:30pm.

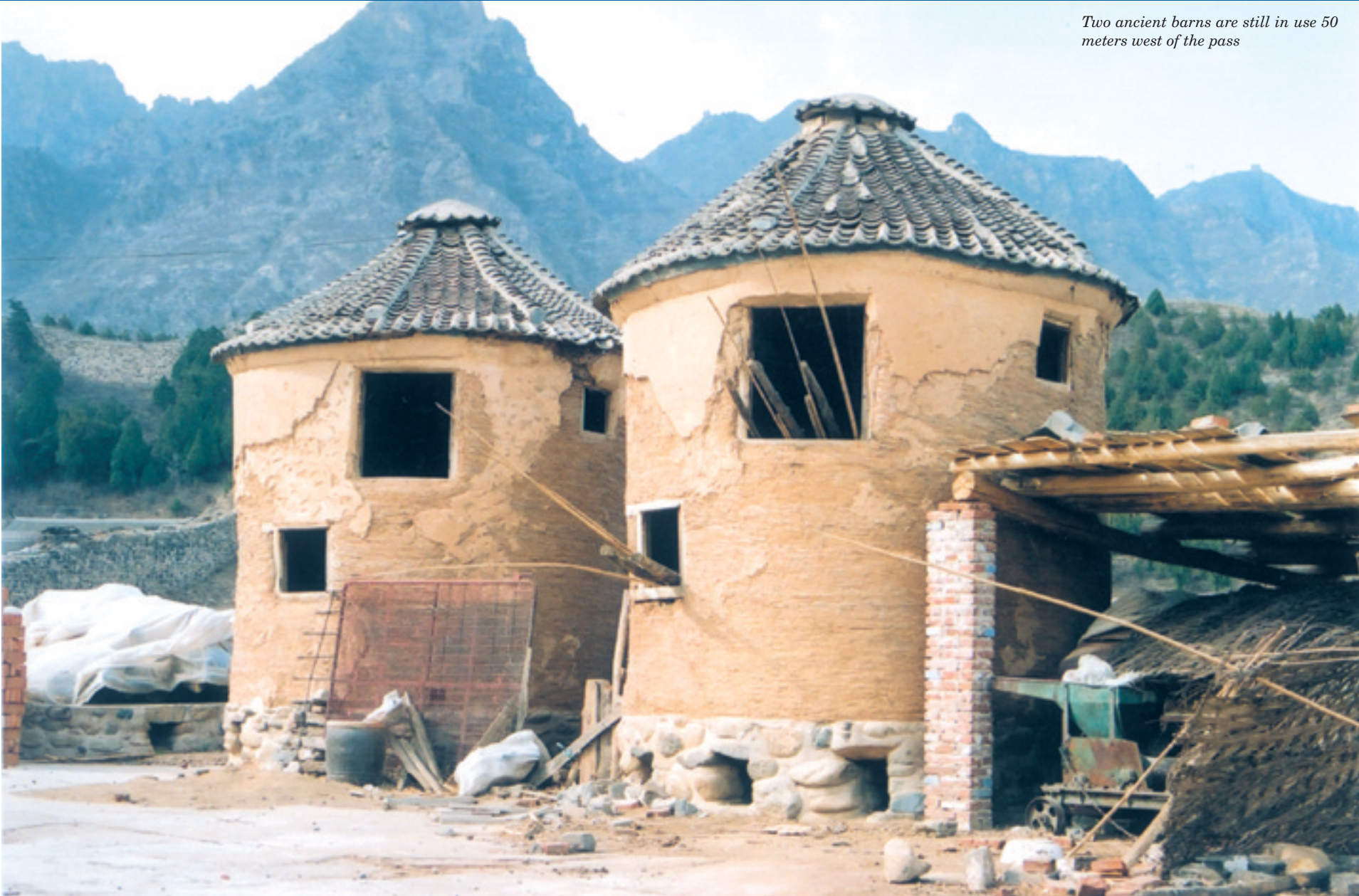
Performances: Shi Yu Zhuo, Zuo Gong, Ba Wang Bie Ji, Xiao Fang Niu, Qiu Jiang.

When: March 29 - April 4. **Where:** Huguang Guild Hall, 3 Hufanglu, Xuanwu District. **Admission:** 100-180 yuan, 200, 380 yuan VIP. **Tel:** 63518284.



Leisurely Getaway

The Great Wall, passes, valleys and waterfalls - Miyun formed the Ming Dynasty frontline. But yesterday's impenetrable fortress is today's outdoor hiking route, ideal for a leisurely getaway or maybe something more energetic.



Two ancient barns are still in use 50 meters west of the pass



Elderly villagers cannot afford to remodel their houses. Thus, the original look of the houses is kept



Aerosiderite, relic of glacial epoch, behind the Yun Xiu Gu



Kitchen stove in the courtyard



Western wall of Xiao Kou Pass



Where the Zhaos and the Lis meet on the wall

The Xiao Kou Village was once a Great Wall garrison town

Mighty Miyun

By Jiang Zhong

The largest district of Beijing, Miyun County is mathematically 80 percent mountain. Simatai Great Wall winds atop northeast Miyun's corrugated mountain ridge. Alongside, ancient passes which once housed garrison soldiers welcome another spring. Fourteen Great Wall passes were built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) using the mountains as a natural barrier. If making a one-day tour, it's worth visiting one of these passes. Yao Qiao Yu (遥桥峪) and Xiao Kou (小口) passes are recommended.

Yao Qiao Yu Pass

Through canny advertising in capital newspapers, Yao Qiao Yu has successfully improved its tourism revenue. Horses tied to an ancient tree in front of the pass entrance for a moment might summon up image fragments from the life of Ming Dynasty garrison soldiers. The hectoring horse owners, on the other hand, will quickly drown out that daydream.

Seated old women promote family-made firecrackers to visitors at the entrance. If the village head happens to pass by, he will say, "Return

to your courtyard and amuse yourself with it".

Surrounding the village in lime cobblestones, the 500-meter wall was constructed by six local wealthy families. The remaining half of a stone tablet tells the story: The Zhaos and the Lis took the western wall. The former went with the white stones, the latter black.

Modern houses have replaced the older residences here, except for a few stick-in-the mud seniors. Their kitchens are in one corner of the courtyard, and a blanket is hung from the door frame. Pigs patrol the ancient man-gers, and donkeys are tied to the old millstones.

Villagers plant red peppers or feed pigs and hens atop the wall. Behind and above: the Great Wall.

Time for lunch?

Local dishes are offered behind each gaudy door. The most popular here is tie bing zi (贴饼子) cookie made of corn flour). Tie bing zi dai ga zhi (Tie bing zi with one side overcooked to hard shell) is the number one specialty of the locals.

Where is Yao Qiao Yu Pass: Yao Qiao Yu Village, Xin Cheng Zi Xiang (新城子乡), Miyun County

Getting there: Bus from

Dongzhimen to Miyun, one more bus to the village. (Two and a half hours)

Accommodation: 12 yuan for one bed; 60 yuan for a double room; 12 yuan for each dish

Tips: Walking atop the wall affords a fine view of the village and the surrounding scenery. Yao Qiao Yu is busier between April and October

Attractions around:

Yun Xiu Gu (云岫谷) Scenic Spot nearby offers valley hiking and shooting. "Night Adventure through Deep Valley" and skeet-shooting were introduced recently.

Contact: 8102-2307 (no English service) *Getting to the attraction:* Walking to the attraction: two minutes

Xiao Kou Pass

Two kilometers northwest of Yao Qiao Yu stands the larger Xiao Kou Pass. Built on a steep slope, the pass features a 1,000-meter wall. Residences with their original design occupy half of the pass area. Pine trees occupy the rest.

Built in 1368, Xiao Kou was once an important pass. Ming emperors sent generals to govern the pass. Its original name was Jiang Jun Tai Bao (General Terrace Pass). Those residences with a screen wall standing in the front once belonged to the generals.

History has also left its mark here. A quotation of Chairman Mao's on the back of an old house reads: "Unite and take part in production and political activities and improve the economic and political status of women."

Getting to Xiao Kou Pass: In busy season, taxi from Yao Qiao Yu to the pass (10 yuan)

Tips:

A tour of the two passes takes around four hours (one hour for lunch in Yao Qiao Yu); if Yun Xiu Gu is

added, two more hours will be needed.

If not interested in sightseeing at Yun Xiu Gu, then Simatai Great Wall would be right for the afternoon schedule.

With its original Ming Dynasty look, 35 watchtowers are included along the 19-kilometer wall. Beijing's outdoor photography enthusiasts frequent the wall year round.

Getting there: taxi from Xiao Kou Pass to the Great Wall (30 yuan, 25 minutes) *Open:* 8am-5pm *Admittance:* 20 yuan

Afternoon car tour

For the outdoor enthusiast, Bai He (白河) Valley in northwest Miyun offers an resort for hiking, camping, rock climbing and canoeing.

Drive along the road on the northern bank of the Miyun Reservoir; turn north at Hei Long Tan (黑龙潭 Black Dragon Pool). After two tunnels, get to the Bai He Valley.

A sandy beach at the valley bottom offers an ideal place for pitching tents. The rock wall facing the beach is included in most popular rock climbing books in Beijing. Twelve difficulty levels are included.

The beach camping might not be suitable for a cold spring night. Five kilometers ahead, Qing Liang Gu (清凉谷) Scenic Spot provides Japanese-style accommodation.

Supplied by the Bai He River, five waterfalls and 13 pools line a four-kilometer strip.

Tourists can plant peaches or apricots around the scenic spot. The next year, they can come back and pick fruit from their own trees.

Tips: The busy season at Qing Liang Gu begins mid April. When the fruit ripens, tree owners will be telephoned and asked to come back and pick.

Photos by Zhao Shiyu

Chinawide



Western Xia Tombs

By Jiang Zhong

The Mongolians fought six wars with the Xia, resulting in the death of Genghis Khan (1162-1227), first emperor of the Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368).

The Western Xia tombs near Yinchuan (银川), capital of Ningxia (宁夏), are worth considering on any serious West China tour. Scattered on the eastern slope of Helanshan (贺兰山), 25 kilometers west of Yinchuan, the tombs house nine emperors and some 140 annex tombs.

In 1038, the Tuoba group of ancient Qiang nationality set up the Xia regime known as Xi Xia or Western Xia (1038-1227). At its zenith, the Western Xia included today's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, northern Shaanxi, western Gansu, northeastern Qinghai and a fair slice of Inner Mongolia.

The regime constituted its unique systems of politics, military, education and law, forged its own coins and invented its own written language. The history and culture of the Western Xia is thus exemplified by its emperors' tombs.

The Mongolians sacked the Xia capital in 1227 and conducted a bloody massacre. They also destroyed the emperors' tombs. But the pyramid-style mounds found here today once housed their coffins. Round or octagonal and about 20 meters high, they have five or seven stories, each built with flying rafters overlaid with rows of tiles.

Rock paintings in Helanshan and San Guan Pass southwest of the Xia tombs also deserve a visit.

Getting there:

Train to Yin Chuan. Buses 2, 4 or 18 to the city center, then taxi to the tombs (30 yuan)

The Great Wall in Ningxia